MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1983

Sudan-Libya-Egypt

Sudan's National Security and Defense Committee announced on 21 February that Libyan military concentrations near the Sudanese border indicate that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is plotting against Sudan, whose security organs are watching all of Al-Qadhdhafi's moves, SUNA reported. The same day a Sudanese Information Ministry spokesman denied that any coup attempt has occurred in Sudan but confirmed that Libyan-trained "saboteurs" have been arrested and that Libya has deployed MIG-23 and TU-22 aircraft near the border, according to MENA. Earlier, a Sudanese official announced in a statement reported by Omdurman radio that arrested members of the "revolutionary committees organization" have made full confessions that enabled the Sudanese authorities to arrest other infiltrators. In another development in Sudan a presidential decree broadcast by the radio announced the cancellation of the ruling Sudanese Socialist Union's Khartoum area conference and the dismissal of a number of party officials. Meanwhile, Sudanese leaders held talks with visiting U.S. envoy General Walters and with Chadian President Hissein Habre, according to other reports by Omdurman radio.

Confirming that Egypt will support Sudan in the event of any aggression against it in accordance with the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense agreement, Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah nevertheless denied that Sudan is likely to be subjected to outside aggression, MENA reported on 20 February. After a 21 February meeting of the Egyptian-Sudanese committee for higher integration, Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, likewise affirmed Egypt's support for Sudan against aggression but stressed that Egypt will not carry out military operations against Libya or any other Arab state, MENA reported. He expressed the opinion that "things have calmed down now" between Sudan and Libya and also dissociated Egypt from the U.S. decision to dispatch warships and AWACS aircraft to the area, asserting that Egypt has not asked any state to send forces, aircraft, or warships and that Egypt will provide necessary aid to Sudan "without the need for a third party's help." Earlier, Egyptian sources cited by MENA said Egypt has nothing to do with current military moves by the United States or any other country.

Libyan media meanwhile denounced the presence of U.S. warships and AWACS aircraft in the area and highlighted internal and external expressions of support for Libya. A 21 February JANA analysis carried by Tripoli radio warned that Libya reserves the right to destroy the AWACS planes whenever it wishes, "even if they are flying in Egyptian skies." Earlier, a Libyan Armed Forces statement broadcast by Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland radio claimed that U.S. ships and planes have recently violated Libyan airspace and territorial waters and warned that Libya will not permit the United States to penetrate Libyan territory, including the Gulf of Sidra. The statement said Libya has not threatened Sudan's security, either with troops or aircraft. Libya's UN delegate sent a message to the Security Council president protesting U.S. "threats and provocations" against Libya and claiming that U.S. AWACS aircraft have created "interference" for Libya's civil communications, according to Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland radio. Demonstrators in Libya angrily protested the U.S. military moves, the radio noted. Meanwhile, the Algerian foreign minister announced that Algeria rejects the "destabilizing" U.S. maneuvers, Algiers radio reported on 19 February. Damascus radio commentaries also castigated the United States and affirmed Syria's support for Libya against "aggression."

Noting the U.S. order to withdraw both the 6h Fleet and the AWACS aircraft, a 20 February JANA report said the United States decided to withdraw the AWACS at the request of the Egyptian regime, "which considered the presence of these aircraft as a cause of the escalation of internal problems and as constituting a source of American provocation toward the Jamahiriyah."

Libyan Affairs

Aircraft Hijacking -- Six Libyans hijacked a Libyan Airlines Boeing 727 to Malta and subsequently threatened to blow up the plane and its passengers unless the aircraft is refueled and cleared for takeoff to Morocco, according to AFP reports. After initial Libyan media silence, JANA carried a brief report on the hijacking on 21 February.

GPC Resolutions -- Libya's General People's Congress (GPC) issued resolutions calling for the toppling of "reactionary" Arab regimes, the staging of suicide operations against Israel, and the liquidation of "misled" Libyan opponents of the revolution, according to the text of the GPC resolutions broadcast by Tripoli radio. The GPC also called for austerity measures at home involving an end to foreign labor and the introduction of a 12-hour working day in service sectors. Another clause said a law will be drafted to ban marriages between Libyans and foreigners.

Palestine National Council

After further open and closed sessions in Algiers, the Palestine National Council (PNC) spokesman announced that the PNC considers President Reagan's Middle East peace plan "unacceptable" but does not reject it outright, according to reports by Radio Monte Carlo, Tunis radio, and AFP. The PLO is willing to negotiate with the United States if the latter takes into consideration the Palestinian right to self-determination and an independent state, the spokesman announced. He also said the PNC has accepted the Fes resolutions as a minimum basis for a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Regarding PLO internal affairs, the spokesman noted that the PNC has rejected 'Isam as-Sartawi's resignation from the PNC, the reports said. AFP reported earlier that As-Sartawi, who pioneered Palestinian-Israeli contacts, had resigned in protest at the "absence of democracy" within the PNC after he was denied time to address the session.

These developments at the PNC followed a weekend of intense activity featuring both speechmaking and closed committee meetings on a number of topics including political, military, and financial affairs, according to reports by Algiers radio. Speaking at a closed session on 20 February, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue but described the Reagan plan as "inadequate," Riyadh radio reported. Earlier, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told the 18 February open session that the Fes resolutions must be the end, and not the beginning, of Palestinian concessions and stressed that any confederation with Jordan must be on the basis of an independent Palestinian state. In his remarks, which were broadcast by Algeirs Voice of Palestine radio, Khalaf also emphasized the PLO's desire for an improvement in relations with Syria and Libya provided that these countries respect the PLO's independence. Khalaf criticized Syria for limiting rather than extending the Lebanon war and also chided the Libyans for failing to deliver promised weapons and for denigrating the PLO fighters who left Beirut.

JANA's political editor responded to Khalaf's criticism of Libya with a strongly worded commentary reported by Tripoli radio accusing Khalaf of being an Israeli agent and describing him as a "coward" and a "mercenary." Libya gave the PLO all the weapons the latter requested, the commentary asserted, but all that Khalaf did was "surrender those weapons to his brother Zionists." Earlier statements by JANA likewise criticized the PNC spokesman's announcements that the PLO wants Libya to stop interfering in a Palestinian affairs and that the PNC has ignored the Libyan-sponsored Tripoli declaration of five leftist Palestinian factions.

Meanwhile, Yasir 'Arafat told PLO fighters at Tebessa that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has promised that PLO fighters in Algeria will be trained to use heavy weapons and "all the modern weapons" Algeria possesses, AFP reported. In another development 'Arafat warned those who are masterminding the continuing harassment of Palestinians in Lebanon that the PLO "has the capacity" to retaliate violently and can reach Tel Aviv and "anywhere in the world," Algiers radio noted.

Lebanon

Subcommittee Talks -- According to an informed source, progress was made during the 18 February meetings of the subcommittees for terminating the state of war and for withdrawals, and "flexibility" was observed in the Israeli position, Beirut radio reported. IDF and Beirut radios announced the postponement of talks scheduled for 21 February due to blizzards

Briefing the Israeli Cabinet on 20 February, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that according to his information the Syrians do not intend to leave Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir also stated that "additional progress" has been made in drafting the clauses of the agreement with Lebanon, the radio added. Earlier official sources in Beirut and Jerusalem denied reports that an "agreement in principle" had been reached between Lebanon and Israel, according to Beirut radio and the Tel Aviv paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Security Situation -- A Lebanese resistance group killed or wounded a number of Israeli soldiers during 20 February attacks on an Israeli patrol north of Tyre and on an Israeli bus north of Sidon, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. Jerusalem radio subsequently denied reports of casualties or damage during "light arms fire" on a buse traveling north of Tyre.

Israel

On 20 February the Cabinet voted to include former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon on the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and the steering committee for the negotiations with Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, the Labor Party condemned the decision and claimed that the government is continuing to evade implementation of the Kahan commission's conclusions.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi naval units destroyed an Iranian naval target west of the Khowr-e Musa strait, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio on 18 February claimed. In another development an Iraqi dissident group -- the "Iraqi mujahidin" -- claimed responsibility for recent bomb attacks on French targets in Pakistan, AFP reported on 21 February citing the Beirut paper AN-NAHAR. According to an anonymous telephone call, the group will continue "to hit French interests" worldwide as long as France supports Iraq in its war against Iran, AFP added.

Iran

Relations With USSR -- Commenting on recent arrests of Tudeh Party members for espionage, the Moscow paper PRAVDA declared on 19 February that "reactionary" circles in Iran are trying to undermine Soviet-Iranian relations, TASS reported. The paper reviewed Soviet-Iranian relations, TASS reported. The paper reviewed Soviet economic support for Iran during U.S. economic sanctions and said these facts show that the Soviet Union is not seeking any special rights or advantages in Iran and is not interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

Relations With Syria -- Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi arrived in Damascus on 20 February and conveyed a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA announced.

GCC Foreign Ministers Meeting

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah announced that the GCC foreign ministers concluded their meetings in Riyadh without discussing the oil issue, SPA reported citing Al Khalifah's remarks at a 20 February Riyadh news conference. He explained that this issue was not discussed because it concerns the oil ministers alone. Al Khalifah declared that the GCC will support "any decision" reached at the current PNC session regarding the Palestinian issue and stressed that the GCC states are intensifying efforts to end the Iran-Iraq conflict.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MATERIALS ON PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

CSSR Delegate's Speech

For a Bratislava PRAVDA report, citing a CTK dispatch dateline Algiers, on the speech by Richard Nejzchleb, deputy chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly People's Chamber, at the 15 February meetings of the PNC, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 18 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

YAR President's Address

GF180716 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 83

["Text" of speech by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president and secretary general of the General People's Congress, at 16th session of PNC on 17 February, delivered on his behalf by Sa'id al-Hakimi, deputy speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly and leader of YAR delegation to PNC session -- ready by announcer]

[Excerpts] At first I would like to express my pleasure at this magnificent popular gathering of the Palestine National Council [PNC] because it is an extension of the bullet whose sound is reverberating throughout usurped Palestine proclaiming to the world that the revolution will continue until rights are restored and the Palestinians return to their homeland, their rights to live are respected, and usurpation and resort to the law of the jungle are condemned.

This gathering of the PNC is a pointer to a united Arab gathering which cleanses the Arab nation of the shame that results from its fragmentation -- a fragmentation that we are now witnessing throughout the great Arab homeland. The PNC is convening in difficult, indeed terrible circumstances, foremost among them, the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon. However, it was a victor's departure.

The Palestinian resistance represents the awakening of the Arab nation's conscience. It means that the Arab conscience is not dead. It means that Arabism exists in the heart of every Arab. The Palestinian resistance is a symbol of Arab values which Arab differences tried to destroy.

The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, means the unity of resistance that leads to the nation's unity and to the achievement of the desired goal: total liberation. The Arab nation's unity and the fusion of the blood of its sons in defense of its honor and the regaining of the land was expressed by the Yemeni volunteers who fought alongside their Palestinian brothers and the Lebanese National Forces. They thus declared that we participate with our blood and weapons and with all our resources and capabilities.

The convening of the PNC in struggling Algeria, the land of heroism and the land of the million martyrs, confirms that the road to liberation will be only through the barrel of the gun. The conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories living under military occupation make it necessary to protect the Palestinians' existence by supporting them and lauding their heroism, constantly seeking to preserve their cultural heritage in their land, and heritage that is part of their history and human affiliation.

It is time for the Arab nation to face its pan-Arab responsibilities and surmount the challenges threatening its existence and seek to achieve unity within a framework of freedom and progress.

Brothers, once again I applaud Algeria, which is today hosting the PNC session. Once again I affirm that we shall stand alongside our Palestinian brothers. We shall share their worries and the burden of the Palestinian cause and make every sacrifice for this purpose. I say this knowing that it has been proved by deeds. Our Palestinian brothers, whom Yemen had the honor to host as heroes in the land of heroes, are respected and treated like brothers so that their revolutionary cause is preserved and their revolutionary and fighting spirit is developed.

May God grant you success. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

18 Feb Morning Session

LD191225 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the 16th PNC session continue at the Palais des Nations in Algiers for the 5th day. Today's first session, which ended at about 1430, included a continuation of the general debate on the political and financial report.

Among the first to speak this morning was Brother 'Isam al-Qadi, who affirmed the rejection of the Reagan plan. The PNC then voted on organizational draft resolution put forward by the PLO and the PNC presidency bureau on the manner of adding new members to the council. The PNC voted in favor of a proposal, according to the resolution, on the addition to the PNC of 23 members from the Supreme Military Council of the Palestinian revolution and 6 civilians.

After approval, the floor was given to Shaykh at-Tamimi, religious judge of the town of Jericho, who was deported by the Zionist occupation authorities. He said that not 1 inch of the soil of Palestine must be conceded and that action must be taken to entrench the inhabitants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for support for their steadfastness in the fact of Zionist occupation. He said that the inhabitants of the occupied soil, who live under hard conditions, are hoping that the PNC will adopt decisive resolutions to foil the Zionist plans.

Shaykh at-Tamimi stressed the need for cohesion and unification of the Arab armies, just as Khalid ibn al-Walid had done in the Al-Yarmuk battle when he defeated the Romans. He said: There is no road ahead of us except the road of force, which the world respects. National unity is the only thing that leads to victory. He placed responsibility for the loss of the holy Al-Aqsa mosque and the holy city of Jerusalem on the Islamic states.

After the speech by Shaykh at-Tamimi, the session was adjourned. General discussion is due to resume at 1800.

Yesterday's evening session ended at 2130. It was followed by a performance by artistes. Brothers Nayif Hawatimah, Samir Ghawasha, and Bahjat Abu Gharbiyyah were among speakers who affirmed Palestinian national unity and rejection of the Reagan plan. They also affirmed the need to continue the armed struggle and to safeguard national independence, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Yesterday's evening session also featured a commemoration ceremony for the late militant Comrade ash-Shawi, founder of the Lebanese Communist Party. The PNC observed 1 minute of silence in mourning for the soul of the deceased, who fought with both pen and weapons agaisnt the Zionist enemy and the fascist forces in the Lebanese arena, within the framework of the patriotic Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion. In this connection Comrade George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, made a moving speech to commemorate the deceased. He received the condolences of the PNC members of the death of the departed colleague.

QNA: Palestinian-Egyptian Meeting

GF181124 Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (QNA) -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani has said that a Palestinian-Egyptian meeting was held in Algiers on 17 February to discuss Egypt's return to the Arab ranks and the restoration of Palestinian-Egyptian relations. In a statement to Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, Ad-Dajani said that several PLO Executive Committee members attending the PNC session in Algiers as well as Egyptian political and party figures attending the PNC session took part in the Palestinian-Egyptian meeting.

It was reported that the two sides agreed to postpone the restoration of relations with Egypt at present because such a step would constitute a threat to opposition parties in Egypt. It was also agreed to abide by the Aden resolutions on drawing closer to Egypt to the extent that Egypt draws away from the Camp David accord.

Spokesman's Press Conference

LD190939 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 19 Feb (APS) -- Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, official spokesman at the PNC, gave a press conference yesterday afternoon at Al-Awras Hotel for national and foreign journalists.

Regarding the question of American aggression in the Gulf of Sidra, Libya, 'Abd ar-Rahman replied: We have no information about any aggression. However, just as we condemned the downing of two Libyan aircraft 2 years ago, we again condemn any exercises in the Mediterranean Sea Basin. As we have already said, America, with these maneuvers, is fanning sharp conflicts in the Middle East.

Replying to a question about "the depth of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front," the official spokesman of the council said that this front was the first victim hit by the first bullet in Beirut, pointing out that some Arab states are placing obstacles in front of the Palestinian organization. With regard to the recent Tripoli declaration, 'Abd ar-Rahman stressed that it does not deserve comment and the council in this session has ignored it.

'Abd ar-Rahman made it clear that the Palestinian revolution does not seek to open confrontation between it and any other Arab side, but it needs Arab solidarity and is for Arab unity, in which Arab strength lies. Moreover, the organization seeks to strengthen this solidarity of all progressive Arab forces and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. At the same time, he appealed to the Arab countries to work to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He said in particular: "We do not fight for the sake of fighting, but to obtain the rights of the Palestinian people and subsequently to regain their land."

Regarding the reasons for the Palestinian organization's rejection of Reagan's plan, the official spokesman of the council replied: "We reject any initiative which does not serve the interests of the Palestinian people, and we deal with all parties of the world which work for the interest of the Palestinian people; in brief, we say that Reagan's plan is unacceptable and does not realize the Palestinian people's wish."

'Abd ar-Rahman at the end of his statement recalled the tragedy of the Palestinian people caused by American support for Israel since 1948. He said that had it not been for this support Israel would not have survived. He pointed out, as an example, that every Israeli receives $10 from America, every day.

With regard to new members in the council, 'Abd ar-Rahman announced that the total number if 384. In this session, 23 military members holding the rank of general, 6 other members representing various other Palestinian organizations, together with 134 members inside occupied territory have been added.

AFP: Al-Qadhdhafi Criticized

OW190416 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 19 (AFP) -- Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was sharply criticized here Friday by speakers at the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. PNC spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahim accused Libya of financing splinter groups to sabotage the Palestinian movement from within.

When Ahmad Jibril, head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), praised Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and asked rhetorically, whether he should be considered a traitor to the Palestinians, a chorus of voices in the meeting hall shouted "yes."

Col al-Qadhdhafi (?irritated) many Palestinian fighters when he suggested they should hold out suicidally against the Israeli siege of Beirut rather than negotiate for their evacuation last summer.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), a senior lieutenant to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat, said that "whether Al-Qadhdhafi likes it or not, Palestinian guerrillas are not cattle but brave fighters who have defended Arab honor."

He said the PLO would not be able to re-establish "healthy relations" with Col al-Qadhdhafi until he made a public confession of his errors.

19 Feb Activities

LD192319 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The work of the 16th session of the PNC resumed this afternoon at the Palais des Nations at the Club des Pines. Here are the details from the radio correspondent:

At about 1830 this evening at the Palais des Nations in Algiers, the work of the 16th session of the PNC resumed -- a session on which the Palestinian masses pin high hopes because of its great significance due especially to the fact that it is being held under complicated circumstances following the battle for Beirut. This requires that it draw up a practical plan of action to be followed by the PLO, which is waging a popular war for the liberation of occupied Palestine to achieve self-determination and to establish a democratic state on the land of Palestine.

The work is still comprised of members of the council making their speeches concerning the current situation in the Palestinian land, the Arab and international arenas, and analyzing its various aspects in order to draw up the positive and negative results. This will facilitate the future plan to be pursued by the Palestinian revolution on various levels. The speakers stressed the need to confront and put an end to the Reagan plan, which constitutes a grave danger to the whole Arab nation because it is an extension of the capitulationist Camp David accords aimed at the recognition of Israel and the normalization of relations with it. They also stressed the importance of the military solution and of widening the scope of the popular war inside the occupied territories in addition to mobilizing all Arab capabilities and fully exploiting them in the continuation of the war against Zionism and its ally, imperialism.

They also discussed the Fes plan and analyzed it extensively in order to discover its positive and negative points.

They also discussed the foundations on which relations with Syria and Jordan should be based. They urged interest in this matter and the establishment of a framework of dialogue in order to build strong relations between the PLO and the two countries in their capacity as two Arab countries constituting a firm ground for the Palestinian revolution. They also called for the consolidation of relations with Egyptian nationalist forces, especially as they are the forces capable of aborting the normalization between the Egyptian regime and Israel. The speakers are continuing to deliver their speeches up to this very moment before the council members who did not go to the city of Tebessa. A significant number of participants in the session arrived there morning to visit the Palestinian fighters who have been living there since their departure from Beirut.

19 Feb Evening Session

LD191313 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The evening meeting of 16th PNC session was marked by the speech of a council member who pointed out in his address that Israel was not the one who dislodged the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon. It was driven out by Arab impotence. Mentioning the Reagan plan, he said that it came to complent the military massacre with a political one. He clarified his position on the issue of the conflict with the Zionist enemy on a number of points, in particular no mandate or relinquishment or abandonment of the Palestinian cause, Palestinian unity, and Palestinian land.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, spoke at the same meeting. He began with an analysis of the Lebanon war and the heroic resistance showed by the Palestinian combatants. He said the resistance had stood fast and fought in Beirut without waiting to reach the level of the military technology at the disposal of the enemy, unlike the Arabs who sought this pretext in order to avoid waging a war for the sake of dignity and honor. He said: In the absence of possible effective settlement, our option is a long-term struggle, a military, political, diplomatic, cultural, and information struggle.

'Isam as-Sartawi Resignation

NC201406 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 20 (AFP) -- 'Isam as-Sartawi, the Palestinian who initiated the first, unofficial meeting between Palestinians and Israelis earlier this year, today announced his resignation from the Palestinian National Council in protest against what he said was the "absence of democracy" within the Palestinian parliament. He reaffirmed his support, however, for the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr as-Sartawi, who handled Palestinian relations with the Socialist International, was successful in his attempt to address the Palestinian assembly's general debate Thursday through yesterday. He had hoped to speak out in favor of a dialogue between the PLO and the peace movement in Israel. He was present during the meeting in January in Tunis when PLO [word indistinct] Yasir 'Arafat met with a delegation from the Israeli committee for peace. Today he said he hopes that the PLO would adopt "democratic methods to examine the important problems it must face."

Sources close to Mr 'Arafat said it was "not certain" that Mr as-Sartawi's resignation would be accepted.

The question of contacts between the PLO and Israeli pacifists was sharply criticized here yesterday by Mr 'Arafat's leading opponent Ahmad Jibril, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. But Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], a leading member of the Fatah group, which is headed by Mr 'Arafat and represents a majority feeling in the Palestinian movement, had openly hailed Israeli journalist Amnon Kapeliuk for his book on the massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila camps.

The homage, made during an earlier council session, was seen here as indicating approval by a majority of the PLO for Mr 'Arafat's recent overtures toward the Israelis.

PNC Rejects Resignation

JN211736 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Let us listen to the recent developments in 'Isam as-Sartawi's case. As-Sartawi tendered his resignation to the PNC because he was not allowed to deliver his speech and he thought that this was undemocratic. This afternoon PNC spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman announced that 'Isam as-Sartawi's resignation has been rejected and that he has not been dismissed from the Fatah movement. 'Abd ar-Rahman added that As-Sartawi reiterated that he belongs to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Abd ar-Rahim Press Conference

LD211139 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] PNC official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahim held a press conference yesterday at [word indistinct] which was attended by national and international journalists. During the conference 'Abd ar-Rahim answered a number of questions. He touched upon the work of the military, information, and Lebanon committees, which he said started work yesterday morning. He stated that the political committee is scheduled to finish its work today. He pointed out that the political leadership has started consultations for the nomination of members of the new Executive Committee to be submitted to the National Council for selection.

Answering a question about the possibility of 'Arafat's meeting with Mubarak, the official spokesman said that a meeting will take place but not on the basis of Camp David, pointing out that the role of the organization and the Palestinian revolution is to work to achieve the interests of the Palestinian people, their right to return to their homeland, Palestine, self-determination, and the setting up of their own independent state.

'Abd ar-Rahim said that we do not allow ourselves to interfere in Arab countries' affairs. The Palestinian organization has nothing to do with this. Nor do we accept interference by these countries in our affairs. Adjusting the situation in any Arab country is up to the Arab peoples themselves.

'Abd ar-Rahim mentioned the publication of inaccurate news reports by some elements, affirming that the PNC accepts and adopts the Fes plan. Anyone who rejects that has the right of objection or of withdrawal from the council. He also said that consultations have begun to form the new Executive Committee.

'Abd ar-Rahim announced that the council is expected to end its work tomorrow.

Answering a question about rumors of Dr as-Sartawi's resignation, 'Abd ar-Rahim said that Mr as-Sartawi, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has submitted his resignation to the foreign press but not to the Palestinian organization. Concerning rumors circulated about Ahmad Jibril's threat to withdraw, Abd ar-Rahim said that the withdrawal of Ahmad Jibril from the PLO is up to him if he so decides.

Regarding Jordanian-Palestinian rapproachment after the complications of 1970, the official spokesman said that the Palestinian organization constantly aspires to the future and to what it considers beneficial to the Palestinian people.

Committees Draft Resolutions

LD211436 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The committees established by the PNC during its 16th session held in the Palais des Nations are continuing their work in closed sessions for the 2d day in order to draft the final form of the resolutions and recommendations that will be submitted to the council for approval. Some committees, including the committees of information and finance, concluded their work last night.

For further details we will try to get in touch with colleague (?Tatuq) Abdelkader at the Palais des Nations:

[Abdelkader] Informed sources say that the various committees established by the PNC have concluded their deliberations and studies of all issues before them. The drafting committees are preparing the draft resolutions to be submitted later to the PNC for debate and adoption. These draft resolution are expected to answer many questions resulting from the current situation on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

In addition to organizational issues, they have also completed the proposals for Palestinian method of confronting settlement ideas and the requirements of this confrontation, starting with Palestinian unity. It appears that this main factor, unity, has reached a unanimity that had previously been unattainable. It is noted that the concept that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people has received support from all Palestinian factions, a matter that strengthens the expectation of a general political line that would be the foundation for any future move.

An important factor that enjoys the support by and adoption of the various Palestinian groups is emerging: the military unification of all fighting factions into a unified Palestinian army which would allow the massing of all fighting potentials and perpetuate the principle of the armed option as a method to regain the usurped right.

In addition to this, there is a new direction toward bolstering armed action inside the occupied land stemming from the conviction of the need to shake the corners of the Zionist entity from within.

It has been learned from a reliable source that the PLO Executive Committee is meeting now. However, this source refrained from mentioning the subject of this meeting. The question of (?factional) representation within the Executive Committee, the selection of which is expected during this session, which is being watched by various quarters following the proceedings, could be among the subjects being dealt with by this meeting.

'Arafat on Sidon Palestinians

JN220625 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] In Algiers PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that he had received a message stating that the Palestinians residing in Sidon have been given an ultimatum to leave the area within the next 24 hours. The message pointed out that the Palestinians residing in Beirut have been subjected to a campaign of intimidation and terrorism.

'Arafat said: The identity of the perpetrators is well known to us. They are the Phalangists and Sa'd Haddad's forces, which represent Israel and the United States. Warning those who are masterminding this campaign, 'Arafat said: We have the capability to retaliate; we have fedayeen who can reach any spot in the world.

Well over 20,000 Palestinians, as 'Arafat explained, have so far been evacuated from the Sidon region to Al-Biqa' and Beirut over the past few days. 'Arafat added that the Palestinians no longer own property in Sidon and that their belongings have been confiscated.

'Arafat made these statements as the PNC was debating the final work phase yesterday.

'Arafat on Iraqi Withdrawal

JN221138 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Algeirs, 22 Feb (INA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for an immediate halt to the Iraqi-Iranian war, particularly since Iraq has pulled its troops back to the international borders.

'Arafat, who was talking to Palestinian leaders whose meeting was in progress until early today, added that Iraq withdrew its troops in response to an appeal made by the Palestinian revolution during the siege of Beirut. 'Arafat discussed the PLO's role and efforts within the framework of the nonaligned and good offices committees to stop the war.

ALF on Steadfastness Front, Syria

JN221001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 22 Feb (INA) -- During the meeting of the leaders of Palestinian resistance groups last night, the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] voiced reservations on two points concerning mention of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and relations with the Syrian regime.

Abu Isma'il, ALF Central Committee member and the front's representative in the meeting, said that there were reservations about mentioning the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front becuase this front had never existed. Its creation was basically aimed at dismembering Arab ranks. He added that some parties of the front conspired against the Palestinian revolution, especially during the recent war in Lebanon.

He also made it clear that the ALF had reservations about the relationship with the Syrian regime for this same reason, affirming that these reservations conform to the reality of this regime's stand and its continued conspiracy to split the Palestinian Arab ranks.

The Palestinian leadership met last night to study the political statement which will be issued by the 16th session of the PNC currently meeting here.

'Final Stage' of Work

LD212257 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The PNC began the final stage of its work this evening, adopting draft resolutions after a final debate.

The military committee recommends creating a Palestinian national liberation army comprised of all Palestinian revolution forces.

Two [as heard] other resolutions relate to social affairs and food, to financial affairs, and to people organizations. The social affairs, education, and higher education committee recommends that the council undertake a campaign to free Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territories and elsewhere. In education the council will ask the Arab countries to introduce Palestinian studies in all phases of education.

The financial report recommends developing Palestinian resources, which will constitute essential support to the sovereignty of Palestinian national (?decisions).

The council also recommends that the PLO Executive Committee obtain all of the contributions of financial support and strengthening the resistance which were decided on at the Baghdad Arab summit but which have not been paid.

The plenum's debate is continuing. All of the resolutions will be adopted tonight or tomorrow morning at the latest.

The political resolution, easily the most eagerly awaited, will not be adopted before tomorrow morning. Thus a very interesting debate is expected before the vote. However, we already have an idea on this resolution: no to the Reagan plan, a plan which in form and content does not meet the Palestinian people's national rights since they do not have the right to return to their usurped fatherland.

Finally, it should be noted that the PNC rejected the resignation of Mr as-Sartawi, a Fatah member.

Report on Decisions, Resolutions

LD221012 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] All its 16th session at the Palais des Nations in Algiers yesterday, the PNC approved a number of resolutions and recommendations on social, cutural, higher education, finance, and popular organizations.

With regard to social and cultural affairs, the PNC decided that the PLO should begin the widest possible campaign for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees inside and outside the occupied territories. The council also decided that the PLO should support and protect Palestinian social and cultural institutions in Lebanon and do everything possible using all available means to insure the continued services of UNRWA for the Palestinian people.

The PNC also decided to support the higher committee for Relief of the emigrants who left Lebanon as a result of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and to develop its work in a manner which would serve the migrating families in the best possible manner while efforts are exerted to return them to their original places of residence.

In the field of higher education, the PNC decided to approach the Arab countries with a view to including the question of Palestine in their school curriculums at various levels of education, the writing of reference books for this purpose, and drawing up an educational policy for all levels of Palestinian education in order to meet the needs of the Palestinian struggle in the stage of liberation.

The financial report endorsed by the PNC provides for the need to develop Palestinian financial resources as basic support for the independence of the Palestinian national decision.

In the field of information, the council decided to set up a central council for information and a central council for culture as well as a publishing and distribution house to disseminate Palestinian culture and to print works of art and literature pertaining to the Palestinian question. It also decided to have them translated into foreign languages, including Hebrew. It also decided to develop the Palestine news agency, WAFA, and the journal FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH and to establish cultural centers and clubs at Palestinian camps and places of gathering to insure the mobilization of the Palestinian people in their struggle and to foil all attempts at undermining their unity and to ensure that they rally around the PLO.

The council affirmed the extreme importance of continuing the Palestinie Studies Center in Beirut and of providing of all possible support for it in its important cultural and intellectual role.

The council also affirmed its decision to set up a central library of Arab heritage.

In the field of popular organizations, the council affirmed the resolutions adopted during past session pertaining to the popular organizations and decided to implement those resolutions that have not yet been implemented. It also approved efforts to endorse the principle of compensation or pension for years of service by Palestinian workers in the Arab countries which do not apply this principle at present. It decided to approach those responsible for workers in the Arab countries to ensure social and vocational security for them and to grant them the right of free movement and residence, particularly Palestinian workers involved in transportation, transport, and travel.

With regard to the occupied territory, the PNC decided to reinforce the construction of an internal Palestine national front and to support it as the basic and effective shield of the PNC for guiding the people's political struggle. The council also decided to provide all moral and material political support for the Palestinian national front while observing security and guaranteeing the continuity of this front.

The PNC denounced the agent village leagues and recommended that they be aborted. It also denounced all suspect attempts aimed at departure from national unanimity, detraction of the PLO's status as sole representative of the Palestine people, and plots against the established rights of the Palestine people.

The recommendations of the committees on the affairs of Palestinians in Lebanon and the popular organizations have been referred to the Executive Committee for study and resubmission to the council.

The report of the political committee is scheduled for submission this morning, to be followed by the election of a new Executive Committee and the winding up of the session.

PFLP, DFLP, FATAH LEADERS INTERVIEWED

JN182002 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Interview by Monte Carlo radio correspondent Nabil Darwish in Algiers with PFLP Secretary General George Habash, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, and Fatah second-in-command Salah Khalaf, carried in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Interviewer] What are our guests' stands on the Fes summit resolutions? Let us start with Dr George Habash.

[Habash] Regarding the Fes summit issue, we as the Palestinian people have a long history of experiences with the Arab regimes and their interference as well as the negative impact of this interference on the Palestinian national struggle. Our first experience was in 1936 when a Palestinian armed revolution broke out and really annoyed Great Britain. The revolution continued for a relatively long time, but was put down. Official Arab interference played a major role in the abortion of the revolution. We all recall the so-called London conference during which the Arab kings, sultans and emirs who were ruling then unanimously agreed to intervene to end the strike and the armed revolution.

We experienced another intervention in 1948 that led to extremely negative results. We were told then that the Arab states' [armies] were asked to stop our struggle temporarily in order to enable the seven Arab armies that were coming to liberate Palestine for us. I do not want to continue this review of Arab interference in the past. I only wanted to indicate that it is necessary for us to be alert against the official Arab interference in our internal affairs which has continued until the present.

[Interviewer] The PLO was present at the Fes summit meeting at which the resolutions were adopted.

[Habash] Despite the PLO's presence at the Fes summit conference, why didn't the Arab states call for an Arab summit during the first week of the aggression against Lebanese territory? Why didn't they hold the conference in the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh week? Why did they wait until we left Beirut and then hold the Fes summit conference?

[Interviewer] The Fes summit [plan], in one way or another, was in line with the King Fahd plan proposed before the Beirut events while King Fahd was still a prince.

[Habash] As I said, the Fes summit was not held during the events in Lebanon. There were several attempts to hold it. I recall that there was a serious attempt by Comrade 'Ali Nasir [of the PDRY] who underlined the importance of holding an Arab summit conference. However, some of the Arab countries insisted that, if this conference was held, it must discuss the King Fahd plan, which was on the agenda of the former [Fes] summit. What does this mean when we define our stand on the Fes summit conference and its results? We should not be satisfied with reading the text of the resolutions. It is our right to ask: Why was the conference held at that time? What were the reasons behind it? What was the objective behind each point in the resolutions?

[Interviewer] What is the purpose, in your opinion?

[Habash] We have clearly seen that there were two aims: The first is to drag the PLO into tacit recognition of Israel because it will form a cover for the other Arab regimes. Jordan can now take these resolutions as a cover and tell the PLO: You have tacitly recognized Israel.

Why do you object to any Arab regime taking such a step and negotiating with Israel? The other serious aim is that the Arab reactionaries wanted the Fes resolutions to contribute a common ground for connecting the Fes plan with the Reagan plan. This can be discerned in statements by many Arab officials who attended the Fes summit. These officials said right after the summit that there was a common ground for the Fes resolutions and the Reagan plan.

[Interviewer] This then is the PFLP's position on the Fes resolutions. Let us see the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [DFLP] position. Mr Hawatimah?

[Hawatimah] The Fes summit was held in the post-Lebanese invasion and the Beirut siege period. Saudi Arabia attempted to resubmit its plan which was defeated before the Lebanese invasion and the Beirut battle. However, this plan could not pass through in the form Saudi Arabia wanted. Saudi Arabia attempted to drop the exclusive PLO representation of our people so that it could open the door for the Reagan plan and empower Jordan to speak in the name of the Palestinian people. It attempted to drop the right of self-determination and to allow the United States to tighten its grip on the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli struggles. At the same time, the Arab reactionaries attempted to forge a paragraph calling for tacit recognition of Israel. This paragraph was actually forged within the seventh point. It called for a role for the UN bodies, particularly the Security Council, and for linking this role with security arrangements for all states in the region, including the independent Palestinian state. Why was this allowed to pass? I agree with Comrade Habash that the Arab regimes attempted to create a union between the Fes resolutions and the Reagan plan, to exploit the tacit recognition as a bridge to reach the Reagan plan. They wanted covert or overt recognition of the enemy state. Thus, the Palestinian rights would remain suspended because the Arab resources are inactive under these regimes. The issue of Palestinian representation, the right of establishing the independent Palestinian state and self-determination would be established on the basis of a future status quo.

[Interviewer] But when you demand a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip -- and I think this is the DFLP's opinion -- does this not mean a recognition of Israel in one form or another?

[Hawatimah] There is an established fact on the ground. We cannot now foresee the legal forms which this fact might take. Until this issue is threshed out, the main problem facing us is to enable our people to extract their right to self-determination, to return, and to independence as a Palestinian state.

[Interviewer] In view of the PFLP and DFLP stands on the Fes resolutions, how do you, Abu Iyad and the Fatah movement, evaluate these resolutions?

[Khalaf] In my opinion, the Fes resolutions [word indistinct] the Arab inaction. They are the outcome of Arab efforts at this stage. If we really want to deal with this issue in an objective manner we find that the Arab states wanted the Reagan plan as it is. This plan does not support the right of self-determination; it drops the PLO out and makes the West Bank and Gaza part of the Jordanian regime. In my opinion, this reply to this serious plan is what the PLO has done through the Fes summit and is the minimum we should agree on. All those who [words indistinct] the Reagan plan should know that we are armed with Palestinian national unity, a struggling spirit, and political action which is acceptable to the Arabs and the world. In my opinion, the Fes plan is one of our weapons to fight the Reagan plan.

[Interviewer] Dr Hawatimah, Dr Habash, do you have any comment on this position?

[Habash] Regarding this subject, it is important that we first reach a political common ground.

To be honest, this is one of the points on which we differ in the Palestinian arena. But to us, the question of national unity at this particular time is very important and basic. This means that none of us should hold tenaciously to his own opinion and try to impose it on the others. Therefore, we must look for the political common ground.

What concerns us in the PFLP is that our position on the Fes resolution must be formulated in a clear manner so it will not mean recognition in any way, or that we are replacing our Palestinian national plan with the Fes plan, or that we gradually move from the Fes plan to the Reagan plan or to something less than the Fes plan.

[Interviewer] Is this also the position of the DFLP?

[Hawatimah] Let me be very candid and say that the Reagan plan is the only real item on the Middle East agenda. All attempts to play up the Fes plan or fabricate disputes over it are, in the final analysis, false and will not convince anyone. We do not have the Arab capabilities which can render the Fes plan a reality. The only reality is the Reagan plan due to the existing balance of power in the Middle East, which was upset [in Israel's favor] after the invasion of Lebanon and the Beirut battle.

[Question] There has been talk of or agreement on a confederation, but Dr Habash does not want to put the cart before the horse. What does this mean?

[Habash] At this particular time, especially when we take into consideration the fact that the Reagan plan tries to find a solution to the Palestinian question through Jordan, in our opinion in the PFLP, the relations with Jordan must be clearly defined. To be honest, we cannot understand the talk about a federation or confederation with the Jordanian regime at this particular time, because this creates confusion in the ranks of our masses. To be honest, we fear that this would be tantamount to indirectly accepting the Reagan plan. Therefore, we ask this question: As long as our Palestinian state is not yet established, why do we place the cart before the horse? We must, instead, think seriously about continuing and escalating the military, diplomatic, and political struggle on the Palestinian and Arab levels until we establish a new balance of power which enables us to establish our Palestinian state. After that, it would be possible to talk about federal or confederal relations with the Jordanian regime.

[Interviewer] Mr Hawatimah, (?Do you agree with what was said)?

[Hawatimah] As for us, the relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples has always been special and distinguished since 1948 [words indistinct] within the demographic, economic, social, political, and human intermixture. This relationship should be taken into our consideration and we have to base all ideas on this in order to further it. There is no problem when we say from now on that we are prepared to establish a confederation [with Jordan] after the creation of the independent Palestinian state, a confederation that will be between two independent states, one Palestinian and the other Jordanian.

[Interviewer] Abu Iyad [Alah Khalaf]?

[Khalaf] I believe that we have settled this issue. We said clearly that there will be no special relations with Jordan or any other state until after the creation of the Palestinian state.

[Interviewer] That was regarding relations with Jordan. Now we come to relations with Syria. This issue has raised misconceptions in the Palestinian arena. You remember that we broadcast a special episode of our program "It Happened Tomorrow" on this issue. Can you brief us on recent developments, particularly since we feel that some, like Dr George Habash, are calling for a Syrian-Palestinian alliance?

[Habash] Frankly speaking, there must be very strong relations with Syria. Although there are now some obstacles facing this relationship, I believe that intensive and collective Palestinian national efforts must be exerted to overcome all of them.

Syria is a country neighboring Palestine and we cannot agree to become a dependent revolution. This means that we have to determine a base for our central leadership. Where? In the Egypt of Husni Mubarak? In Lebanon? In Jordan? We in the PFLP, when we review the various Arab states surrounding Palestine, come out with a clear-cut answer: Syria is the natural place for us. Why? We are in agreement with Syria on fighting all imperialist and Zionist plans in the region. We and Syria share the fact that our territory is occupied. The Palestinian revolution and Syria have international, basic alliances with the Soviet Union. Syria rejects Camp David. All the factors help us in the PFLP to come out with a clear result: Our central leadership must be in Syria. This does not mean that we will not examine thoroughly the nature of the relations that must be established between us and Syria at this stage. This relationship must be based on guaranteeing the independent Palestinian decisionmaking process.

[Interviewer] Mr Hawatimah, for his part, has called for rectifying the Syrian-Palestinian relationship. What is the plan in this relationship; is it inequality for instance?

[Hawatimah] The truth is, we are calling for rectifying the relationship, because the existing relationship, especially after what happened in the Lebanon war, the Beirut war and afterwards, has become tense. The Lebanon war made us all face the big test. We must clearly state that the nationalist Arab regimes were obviously not forthcoming in their aid to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Our people and the Lebanese people waited for these regimes to put their slogans into practice. We and the whole world later discovered that there was a great gap between these slogans and the real practices of these regimes in the battlefield. These relations are not straightforward. They need to be corrected.

These relations need to be corrected on the basis of taking into consideration each other's special circumstances, the special circumstances of our national cause and the special circumstances of Syrian affairs. It should be on the basis of enabling each one of us to adopt his own independent national decision. In this framework also, Syria should open its arms to really absorb the capabilities of the Palestinian revolution by enabling us to gather our armed forces and to set up our entire Palestinian leadership.

[Question] Abu Iyad, who took part in the strategic alliance between the Fatah movement and Syria, was critical after the Beirut incidents. He said, in one way or another, that the dispute was strictly between the Fatah movement and Syria.

[Khalaf] At any rate, Syria is not [word indistinct]. Syria has its own position in the Arab homeland. Still, this does not mean that the relationship should not be discussed clearly and precisely. These relations have been tackled and differences have emerged throughout their long history. Therefore, this is not the first time. After every dispute, the facts were pointed out and matters were settled. But to be honest, even in the strategic talks you referred to, we did not discuss the issues in detail -- hence the flaw. This flaw does not at all mean that the Syrian forces did not fight. On the contrary, they fought [words indistinct]. But this is not the question which is being asked. The question is: Has Syria fought as was expected of it? Has it entered the battle without hesitation? This is the question we must answer. In my opinion, this subject must be discussed clearly and frankly.

[Question] Are you working for a Palestinian-Syrian summit between Yasir 'Arafat and President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Khalaf] In my opinion, it is not the form but the substance which is important. The important thing is to rectify this relationship and for all sides to show a real desire for a correct, healthy relationship between Syria and the PLO.

[Question] These are some of the topics raised in the PNC. Could we deduce in one sentence what resolutions will emerge from this council? Could we start with Mr Hawatimah?

[Hawatimah] In one sentence, our session will be one of the victory of national unity on a platform committed to the PLO's political program and to sound and realistic national solutions for the issues that emerged after the Beirut battle.

[Question] Dr Habash?

[Habash] In addition to that, escalating armed struggle and concentrating on the occupied territory.

[Question] Abu Iyad?

[Khalaf] At any rate, the points mentioned by my two brothers are the main issues of this session. I believe that this session will be a lesson to those who [words indistinct].

DFLP's Hawatimah

LD202011 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], by unidentified reporter at the Palais des Nations in Club de Pins; date not specified -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] With us is DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. Brother Nayif, welcome. There is a consensus on the significance of Palestinian unity at this particular stage by many Palestinian leaders. Can we say that this session will lead to the crystallization of this unity?

[Answer] Palestinian national unity is the strongest weapon in the hands of our people and the revolution on the path toward victory, toward accomplishing the right to return, to self-determination, and to a national independent state under the auspices and administration of the PLO: the sole legitimate representative of this people, of our people. In this area we are not starting from zero. We have taken a great leap forward along the path of our national unity. It is now required of us to consolidate and develop this unity regularly so that it will continually develop.

After the invasion of Lebanon and the battle of Beirut we have found ourselves facing difficult conditions, in which hostile imperialist forces, especially the United States and the expansionist Israelis, are trying to exploit the situation to complete the aggressive bloody operations that took place on the pure soil of Lebanon with a political massacre aimed at the annullment of the PLO's role and the annulment and usurpation of our people's right to independence. At the same time, we find the Arab regimes around us exploiting these difficult conditions in order to involve us in their policies and tactics. Some of them are putting pressure on us in an attempt to push us in the direction of Reagan's plan, and others are pushing us in the direction of adventurist policies that do not serve the interests of our people's cause at all. In the face of the sum of these difficult conditions different forms of conflicts and rifts arose inside the Palestinian arena before the convention of our national council's 16th session on the soil of the Algerian revolution.

We are convinced that we shall attain a new victory for Palestinian unity based on the PLO's program for this phase, the central theme of which is represented by return, self-determination, an independent state and the PLO's sole representation of this people. We are convinced that we shall overcome the great difficulties we are facing. The preparatory proceedings for this meeting were carried out on the basis of this for 4 complete days between the leadership of the representatives of the Palestinian revolution units and the PLO Executive Committee. We have in fact reached preliminary draft resolutions on all the political issues listed on the agenda.

Concerning the Reagan plan, the situation clearly indicates the rejection of this plan, because it neglects the PLO's role and denies our people's right to self-determination, to return, and to independence and insists on confining the entire Palestinian national issue to the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to a new division of these occupied territories between a new Israeli expansion, with the remainder of these territories to be annexed to Jordan. U.S. imperialism's aim by Reagan's plan is again the annulment of the Palestinian people's independent existence, its annexation and attachment to the neighboring Arab countries, the annulment of our people's right to independence and to the establishment of its national state, and the provision of a substitute in the form of autonomy and civil administration as stipulated by the Camp David accords or the Reagan plan.

Therefore, the situation clearly indicates that our national council will reject Reagan's plan; it will say no to its derivatives, to the preconditional compromises required by it; and to its annulment of the PLO's role; it will insist on the soleness of the PLO's representation; it will say no to attempts to delegate Jordan or any other Arab country to speak on behalf of our people, or any joint delegation of Jordan and elements from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Why? Because we like the Jordanian people in the same way as we like the Egyptian people. That is why we rejected the authorization of Egypt to speak on our people's behalf in accordance with the Camp David accords, so that the Egyptian people would not get involved in the blood of our national issue. On this basis we rejected the Jordan delegation, out of our loving sentiment for its people, and so that it would not get involved in our national issue [word indistinct] and the usurpation of our national rights.

The situation also clearly indicates that we shall agree on the necessity of a commitment to the Arab summit resolutions that stipulate the soleness of our people's representation and its right to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state. We shall not allow the linking process, attempted by the Arab reactionary and defeatist forces, between the Fes resolutions and the Reagan plan. We shall not allow the attempts made by many U.S. Arabs to drag the PLO into (?sympathizing) with the Reagan plan, and to use the Fes resolution as a bridge for the Reagan plan. On the contrary, the resolutions signed by the Arab presidents and kings that affirm the PLO as the sole legitimate representative -- contrary to the Reagan plan -- that emphasize the right to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state -- again contrary to the Reagan plan -- and that emphasizes the role of the UN Security Council and other UN bodies in discussing and resolving the Middle East crisis -- which is also contrary to the Reagan plan -- must be respected. This will constitute the political basis for the consolidation of national unity and for attempts to develop it.

The situation also indicates that it is necessary to strengthen the Palestinian fortress inside the occupied territories too to create a steel wall in the face of occupation and to resist it, to create settlements to resist it, in the fact of autonomy and the Camp David or Reagan plan and for the sake of self-determination and an independent national state. We are convinced that on this path we shall reach the need for serious deliberation on (?conciliating) Palestinian-Syrian relations to constitute a joint base in the joint struggle against the occupation, against aggression, and against the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan.

This political framework -- together with our concern for our alliances with the Arab and international liberation and progressive forces, with the socialist countries and with the forces of peace in the world, and our concern for putting forward our people's rights on the basis of the PLO political program, the Arab summit resolutions, and international legitimacy -- will open the way for a deeper and wider understanding on the part of world public opinion, especially in Europe and the United States, to the justice of our cause and the rights of our people. Our armed struggle against the enemy will always remain the principal foundation on which our political action will be built. Within this framework we must also continue the struggle, after agreeing on this common political denominator, for the sake of developing the organizational conditions of national unity and the necessity of moving from the democracy of dialogue in the Palestinian arena to the democracy of consensus of decision. The Palestinian revolution and the PLO have suffered from many inter-Palestinian problems and political differences as a result of individualistic and egotistical behavior. From now on we must concern ourselves with the democracy of decision and collectivity of leadership in order to protect our revolution from added problems, and to confront, with all our capabilities, our enemy, and all other kinds of pressures thrown at us to drag us from our correct path in the direction of either the Reagan plan or an adventurist policy that will make our cause and struggle misunderstood by many forces that support our cause and its justifiability.

[Question] You talked about the significance of the soleness of the PLO's representation. In some quarters there is talk about a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation; how could a conciliation be made between this confederation, if it were achieved, and PLO representation?

[Answer] Clearly any talk about a federation or confederation is an attempt by the U.S. Arabs and the Jordanian authorities to drag us in the direction of the Reagan plan; therefore, we clearly insist on the soleness of the PLO's representation of our people, and we reject that a delegation from any Arab country, whichever it may be, can act on this people's behalf. We are a people at war, mature, wise, and organized -- which was proved in the battle of the invasion of Lebanon and the seige of Beirut, and by over 18 years of armed struggle.

Therefore, we insist on the independence of the Palestinian national decision, which confines our people's representation to the revolution and the PLO. We also insist that there should be no guardianship or containment for us. In the 1936 revolution our people experienced Arab guardianship, resulting in the abortion of the revolution; we experienced it again in 1947-1948, when the result was a conspiratorial deal between Britain, the reactionary Arab regimes of the time, and the Zionist movement, and when the Israeli state was established on 77 percent of our national territories, the rest of which were annexed or attached to the neighboring Arab countries with the aim of wiping out the Palestinian cause demographically, historically, and geographically from the Middle East map. In those people's opinion part of Palestine became Israel and the other part attached to the neighboring Arab countries; part of the people of Palestine were spread inside the enemy's state and other parts dispersed in the Arab countries and other countries of the world. Again, we shall not repeat and shall not allow the repetition of these painful experiences. Thus we insist on the soleness of our people's representation by the PLO and on the independence of our decision.

We also insist on rejecting the delegation of any Arab country or a joint delegation with any Arab country. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative; the Arab countries must respect their signature of the Arab summit resolutions that affirm this, and must respect the signatures of the majority of the world's countries that also affirm this. There must not be a retraction, by us or by any Arab country, from this right of the soleness of representation and independence of the Palestinian national decision.

Within this framework, we affirm that there are special and distinctive relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

These are the result of the neighborly historical existence that became interlinked since the catastrophe of the 1948 plot, demographically, eccnomically, socially, and culturally. We insist that relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples should be founded on the basis of free democratic choice. In view of this we insist that any confederal union formula that might be reached in the future cannot be drawn up until after the creation of the independent Palestinian state, and can only be established between two independent Palestinian and Jordanian states.

Any attempt aimed at the imposition of any unionist or confederal formula prior to the birth of the independent state will be tantamount to putting the carriage before the horse. Furthermore, such an attempt would rob the PLO of its right, and its right alone, to represent the Palestinian people and would rob our people of its right to return, a self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state. In one way or another, it would also squander our Palestine cause in the melting pot of the American-Israeli-Arab defeatist solutions through the Camp David agreement or the Reagan plan.

Hence our insistence that any confederal formula should only be founded on voluntary democratic choice and should only take place after the birth of the independent Palestine state, certainly not before it.

Israel and imperialism are at present trying to realize the second part of the Camp David agreement. Should they succeed in this strategy, what alternative course will the Palestinian revolution pursue? This is what we want to know. We have full confidence in our people, in ourselves, in the friendly forces, and in the fraternal forces, and we believe that a fighting people who have been at arms for 18 years will not permit the second part of the Camp David agreement to be added. It is because of this that the Israeli expansionists and American imperialists have waged their poisonous and annihilative war against our revolution on Lebanese territory, in order to annihilate the Palestine revolution and the PLO, and also in order to clear the way for the implementation of the second part of the Camp David agreement.

However, the legendary resistance put up by our fighters and the national Lebanese forces, and with us the Syrian forces in Beirut, has foiled the overall bloody annihilation plans and enabled our fighters to leave as heroes with their weapons. Those who did not raise white flags during the seige of Beirut before, will not now succumb to American, Israeli expansionist, and defeatist Arab reactionary pressures. They will continue the struggle.

We are sure that our people inside the occupied territory, and all masses of our people in their diasporas, will not permit the second part of Camp David to be imposed. It is due to this that they are trying now to impose on us security and other treaties aimed at the normalization of economic, social, and human relations and thereby annex Lebanon as yet a further link in the chain of Camp David agreements, so that by the beginning of summer they can devote themselves entirely to tackling the Palestine question and to open its dossier on the third front: the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations front. For this reason, pressure is mounting on us to authorize Jordan, alone or with some elements of the West Bank and Gaza, to move toward the American table and the Reagan plan, which represents the American reading of the second part of the Camp David agreement.

We will continue our struggle under any circumstances. We must adopt the means and methods that can enable us to continue our armed and diplomatic struggle. Before us there are numerous examples of peoples who refused to surrender despite the existence of imperialist colonialist solutions, who refused to sign the documents of surrender and who continued the struggle through successive generations. Before us we have the example of Algeria, when Amir Abdelqadir (Jazairi) refused to accept Algeria as part of France over the DEA and all the other French colonial treaties. Future generations of the heroic Algerian people continued the defense of their cause, and carried arms to fight the war of liberation, to achieve complete independence and crush the plans of autonomous rule, self-rule, partition, independence of the northern part, and financial independence.

We all recall the words uttered by President Bendjedid in his speech at the opening of the current PNC session on this, on the Arab pressures brought to bear on the Algerian revolution and on how the Algerian revolution succeeded in containing differences within its ranks and checking all pressures on the revolution.

Once more we say that today we are facing similar conditions. History is repeating itself, in respect to various eras of struggle, but in different details. We will not allow them to impose capitulationist solutions on us in the form of the second part of the Camp David agreements. If we cannot do this with our own capabilities and the support of our friendly and fraternal forces, then we will continue the struggle in all forms, be it military, political, or of the people, in accordance with the conditions available in the land of Christ.

However, we are confident that matters will not come to that. Indeed, we are confident that we will succeed in obstructing the capitulationist solutions now as we did before with regard to the Camp David agreements. [Words indistinct] alternative leaderships and cadres for the revolution and the PLO, failed despite the fact that they enjoyed the capabilities of the United States, the expansionist colonialist Israeli occupation, and As-Sadat's embroilment of the great capabilities of Egypt in this plot. In spite of all that they failed. This time too they will fail in their attempt to attract our people to the Reagan plan, to create alternative leaderships to the PLO or to draw the PLO into agreeing to the Reagan plan.

However, in order not to give them the opportunity or to wait until they come to us with their plans and pressures, we must now work for bolstering the national Lebanese forces, to enable them to escalate their political, armed, and popular struggle against the occupation and against the attempts to link Lebanon to Camp David. Thus we shall prevent them from addressing themselves fully to tackling the Palestine question at the negotiating table, which Reagan expects to take place between Jordan and Israel alongside Egypt and the United States.

The Beirut war has brought about a new method of people's wars. What are the most important and positive apsects highlighted by the Beirut war? On the Palestinian and Arab levels, that a small people with modest capabilities and arms can succeed in waging a long war with the strongest of armies. This is what happened with us in Beirut and southern Lebanon. The Palestinian fighters and the national Lebanese forces fought the longest war of the Arab-Israeli wars; we inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, which the enemy has admitted to have exceeded his total losses in the 1948, 1956, and 1967 wars.

It would have been possible to exploit these new conditions when the overwhelming majority of the enemy army was bogged down in Lebanese territory and the Lebanese morasses, and to inflict a horrible defeat on the enemy. It has been established through our defense and heroic confrontation that our enemy's army can be defeated and that it is not invincible; this has been proved also in history. It used to be said that the Nazi and Fascist armies could not be defeated, but the peoples' determination through a political decision to continue the fighting with the material capabilities and weapons they possessed led to continuous wars, which inflicted defeat on this enemy despite the great losses suffered by the strugglers and the peoples fighting for their freedom and independence.

We have proven that we can inflict defeat on this enemy once the Arab capabilities around us are launched into the battlefield. We have clearly proven that war is not only one of military technology between technologically balanced forces: aircraft against aircraft, tank against tank, warship against warship. We have clearly proven that what matters is not only technology, because we fought with our skin and modest arms.

Luckily they were Soviet-made and socialist-made weapons. It has been proven that these simple defensive weapons were capable of standing fast in the fact of sophisticated American weapons -- tanks, guns, warships, and aircraft. Had the weapons in the hands of the Arab countries been used on the frontline at the time, an abominable defeat would have been inflicted on the enemy army, which would have been forced to retreat and be chased not only out of the occupied Lebanese territories but also of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territory.

The second lesson we have proven is that a small people with modest fighting capabilities can fight. We have also proven that our enemy who masters the blitzgrieg can be faced by a fedayeen war based on men and arms in the hands of men, a protracted war; such popular war can defeat the enemy. This is what we are determined to do in the light of these basic lessons.

However, the major lesson we learned was that standing up to our enemy as one united front would be the strongest weapon in the hands of the Palestine revolution and in the hands of our people. Hence our anxiousness to preserve Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO whatever the differences among Palestinians. We must always look for a common ground between us all and must struggle on the basis of this common ground. All other differences can be tackled through continuous dialogue.

It has also been established as a result of the Beirut war that democracy and collectiveness of decision-making are the soundest and safest ways for managing the conflict in all its aspects: the armed, the political, and the diplomatic.

In the seige of Beirut we fought for over 80 days, but we did not allow the enemy to advance to the Palestinian camps or to heroic Beirut. Alongside, we have fought a great politcial and diplomatic struggle based on collective leadership. However, after Beirut problems arose as a result of egoistic and individualistic tendencies, causing us numerous troubles. Furthermore, we were subjected to numerous and varied pressures either to draw us into the Reagan plan or into an adventurous policy, the tackling of which should be within the framework of collective and democratic decision-making.

MONTE CARLO: 'ARAFAT ON ALGERIA TRAINING FIGHTERS

JN200630 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that Algeria has expressed its readiness to provide military and combat training to Palestinians. In a speech he delivered yesterday to a group of Palestinian fighters in Algeria, 'Arafat announced that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid had stressed to him the possibility of training Palestinian fighters on various types of heavy and sophisticated weapons similar to the training that the Algerian Army is receiving.

INA: 'ARAFAT DISMISSES HITTIN FORCES COMMANDER

JN220755 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0833 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 22 Feb (INA) -- Yasir 'Arafat, the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has issued a decision dismissing Brigadier General Tariq al-Khadra, the commander of the Syrian-based Hittin forces.

'Arafat, addressing the PNC here last night, explained that Al-Khadra ignored the Palestinian leadership's decisions, was affiliated with the Syrian regime, and took unilateral decisions regarding the Hittin forces' affairs.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGIN IN RIYADH

GF191532 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The meetings of the sixth GCC Ministerial Council began at the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh today. They were attended by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of foreign affairs; Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of foreign affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs; and 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general.

On his arrival in Riyadh today, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs, said that during its current session, the Council will discuss a number of issues which were agreed upon and ways of implementing them since there are a number of recommendations presented to the Council by subcommittees. He hoped that the Council will achieve more progress among the GCC members in the economic and defense fields and on all issues under discussion, and that the outcome of what has been achieved so far will be also discussed.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said the Council will issue a final statement on the outcome of the conference after the meetings.

Council's Final Session

LD202319 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1716 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Feb (SPA) -- The GCC Ministerial Council held its final meeting at 1700 this afternoon at the Council's general secretariat in Riyadh.

The final meeting ended at 2130. The Ministerial Council of the Arab GCC began the work of its sixth session yesterday at the Council's general secretariat in Riyadh in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Yusuf al-Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman; Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs of the State of Qatar; Rashid 'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs of the UAE; Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifha; and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Bahraini foreign minister, who is the chairman of the current session, held a press conference.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said at the beginning of the conference that the current sixth ordinary session of the Arab GCC, held in the wake of the third GCC summit conference in Bahrain last November, aimed at following up the decisions and recommendations issued by their majesties and highnesses in that conference.

He added that the Council has followed up what was achieved from the work of the committees stemming from this summit. During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the political situation in the Arab region in general and the region of the Gulf and the cooperation council in particular, was made.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said the Council discussed matters of common interest in an extensive and precise manner, and that the ministers concluded with a common viewpoint about these matters. These are the most important principles on which the Council was founded, namely, the continuous coordination of action concerning these issues and problems, and a collective approach to them.

In the domain of investment, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said that the Council has decided to entrust the ministers of finance and economy to follow up the fundamental steps of the Gulf investment establishment so it may start carrying out its work at the date fixed by the foundation agreement concerned.

In the legal field, the Council reviewed and adopted the minutes of the GCC ministers of justice meeting. The Council also examined the agreement on the advantages and drawbacks of the Council and adopted it.

Shaykh Mahammad ibn Mubarak explained that the Council's work concentrated on two areas: the political, and the economic, industrial, agricultural, and oil aspects. He stressed that many important subjects were examined, and decisions made to develop them for the good of the peoples of the region, to deepen the basis of cooperation and its expansion among the Council countries.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak also stated that in its sixth session, the Arab GCC reviewed the executive measures adopted by the member states to implement the first phase of the joint economic agreement that the higher council decided to begin to implement from 1 March 1983. He expressed the Council's confidence that all the member states will be committed to carrying out what has been agreed upon.

He said the Council also discussed and adopted the minutes of the second meeting of the Industrial Cooperation Committee. It also decided to adopt the minutes of the first meeting of the trade ministers, and to set up a permanent committee of trade ministers called the Trade Cooperation Committee. The Council also reviewed and adopted the minutes of the third and fourth meetings of the Permanent Ministerial Committee for Oil Cooperation. The Council also discussed and adopted the minutes of the first meeting of the GCC ministers of agriculture and water.

The Council has decided to set up a permanent committee for cooperation in the domain of agriculture and water consisting of the ministers of agriculture and water of the council states.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah then answered a question on the Iraq-Iran war saying: The Council discussed the political situation in the Arab region in general and in the Gulf region in particular, including the subject of the Iraq-Iran war, to which the Council attaches the utmost importance because stability in the Gulf is a fundamental matter. He added that the continuation of this war is not in the interests of either country, fraternal Iraq and Iran, and also the Arab and Islamic states in general. He stressed that the Cooperation Council states are working for the end of this war, and that the Council is trying and will continue to try and to intensify its efforts in order to put an end to the war by all possible means. He stated: As we have said in the past, we are making efforts through all existing organizations, whether the Nonaligned Movement, United Nations, or the Islamic Conference Organization. He attached great importance to this subject.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak stressed that it is necessary for the Soviet Union or the United States to take a stand for ending this war. He said that the position of the two countries calling for an end to this war is encouraging.

The Bahraini foreign minister called on the two superpowers and the other states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council to assume their responsibilities concerning security and peace in the world as defined in the UN Charter. Such a role is required, he said, and we encourage the intervention of these states in ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Al Khalifah then answered a question on the discussion of the subject of oil during the Council meeting saying: We are not oil ministers here, but the Council discussed the issues already discussed and decided upon and submitted to the Council by the oil ministers.

He reaffirmed that the issue of oil was not discussed because the question of oil concerns the oil ministers alone. With regard to the question of security issues in the Gulf, the chairman of the Council said these issues are atracting much interest; committees have been set up for this purpose, and there have been studies in this area. He stressed that the Arab GCC attaches great importance to this subject and is seriously working for comprehensive cooperation in this region in order to set up a regional deterrent force consisting of all these states. He said: We are striving and working and will continue to strive and work to strengthen the region and its defense.

He stated that there numerous projects were discussed at the Council meeting, but that usually one does not speak about a subject until the discussion of such a subject is complete.

With regard to the agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said the Council did indeed discuss this subject, and that the brother members expressed happiness at what has been achieved in this area in the form of positive steps. He voiced his conviction that the Kuwait agreement has begun to yield fruit, and that this is encouraging with regard to future efforts to resolve problems between any two Arab countries. He said that what has been achieved in this respect is an achievement of the Cooperation Council, namely, the restoration of concord between brothers.

Concerning the joint economic agreement, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said the Council discussed a number of economic issues and took a number of decisions, and that the subject of implementing the first stage of the unified economic agreement is one of the most important issues discussed. Concerning coordination between Cooperation Council states during the forthcoming nonaligned conference in New Delhi, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said that the subject was discussed and that the agenda of the conference and the issues of common interest that the Council will concentrate upon was coordinated between the member states. He affirmed that at this conference, the Council will be well represented at a high level.

With regard to the Palestine National Council meeting now in Algiers, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak expressed the hope that an independent Palestinian decision will be taken in the present conditions because the Palestinian decision is the Arab decision. He reaffirmed that the Arab GCC will back such a decision and any decision taken by the brothers regarding be Palestinian issue.

He also said: We are following the work of the conference and have discussed in our meetings the development of the situation. He voiced his belief that it is now time for the Palestinians to take their decision.

Concerning the tripartite communique known as the Damascus communique, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said: We in the Cooperation Council have been working and are still working for unity in the Arab ranks and for the removal of differences between fraternal Arab states; the Fes conference was a starting point fur such cooperation.

He said the tripartite agreement does not serve the unity of Arab ranks and will not help to end the Iraq-Iran war.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER ON FUTURE OF GULF REGION, STATE BUDGET

GF180954 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Feb (WAKH) -- Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim predicted that oil prices will stabilize in 2 or 3 months at the most. He asserted that there will not be a worse collapse than the present one and that the West is anxious for oil prices not to fall below a certain price in order to preserve the market for alternative energy sources which it wants to promote.

In an interview with the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today, 'Abd al-Karim said there is no need for a pessimistic view of the future, but if a collapse should take place, all arrangements have been made. He added: We are part of a prosperous area and everything has a solution.

The Bahraini minister categorically denied that the Bahraini Government intends to levy taxes on incomes and profits, thus denying current rumors circulated by some people. He declared that Bahrain has begun to reduce its expenditures, and that beginning with the next budget, a new system will be applied in the budget. He said that ministries will only receive allocations for their basic needs in accordance with a programmed system, and the system of automatic increases in every new budget will be discontinued.

The Bahraini minister declared: "Everyone should realize that the government is merely a guardian of society, and if a crisis should occur, all citizens must share the consequences, for the issue does not affect the government alone."

'Abd al-Karim dispelled the fears of Bahrainis when he said that Bahrain has made specific arrangements to compensate for the fall in oil prices. He stressed that Bahrain's future is bright and that industrial and services projects are continuing.

The Bahraini finance and national economy minister said that the government will continue to stimulate the economy through its economic growth policy. He said that the Gulf region will not collapse and that it continues to enjoy great strategic and political importance as well as importance in the oil field. He also referred to the region's investments abroad and to its financial assets in foreign banks. 'Abd al-Karim declared that Bahrain is part of this region and is not in the Carribean or an island in the Pacific, so there is no justification for pessimism. Bahrain is part of the Arabian Gulf. It is, God willing, a prosperous and flourishing region.

SAUDI ARABIA

'SOURCE' DENIES REPORT ON PAKISTANI TANKS

GF211932 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] In his speech at the Hebrew University, the Israeli chief of staff said there is a Pakistani tank division stationed in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

An official source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has commented on this, saying this report is baseless because there are no non-Saudi armored or other divisions on the soil of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SWAPO LEADER ARRIVES FOR VISIT, RECEIVES AID

GF181530 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma expressed his gratitude amd the gratitude of SWAPO and the people of Namibia to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for the $1 million in aid that the Kingdom's government offered to the refugees in Namibia through the United Nations, and for the political aid that the Kingdom offers to the Namibian question in the United Nations on the international level.

This was stated during the meeting that was held at noon today between the SWAPO chairman and the Foreign Ministry under secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri. The Namibian people's struggle for independence was reviewed during the meeting.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs stressed to Nujoma that it is the wish of the king that every possible political support should be offered to SWAPO and all the African liberation organizations that are recognized by the OAU and that are struggling for the liberation of their nations from colonialism. He indicated that the king's government will not spare any effort in order to offer human aid to the African refugees and that it considers it to be its responsibility to offer this aid and support.

UAE

LINEUP OF DELEGATION TO NONALIGNED SUMMIT

GF211242 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will lead the UAE delegation to the seventh summit conference of the nonaligned countries which will be held in New Delhi from 7-11 March. The delegation that will accompany the president will include the following: member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Um al-Quwayn His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla; Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan ibn Rashid; the president's representative Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah; and head of the Protocol Department Sa'id 'Abdallah; and head of the Protocol Department Sa'id ad-Darmaki.

The delegation will also include director of the president's office 'Ali ash-Shurafa; Information and Culture Ministry Under Secretary 'Abdallah an-Nuways; permament UN representative Fahim al-Qasimi; the UAE Ambassador to India 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Uwayti; director of the Foreign Affairs Department at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Ya'qub al-Kindi; and director of the Department of Studies and Legal Affairs at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Dr 'Ali Humaydan.

AL-BAZ DISCUSSES SUDANESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS

NC211647 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- At Al'Urabah Palace at noon today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with the members of the Egyptian side in the Egyptian-Sudanese higher committee for integration. The delegation includes Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

Following the 3 and 1/2 hour meeting, Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs who attended the meeting, said that it was devoted to the discussion of integration affairs between Egypt and Sudan. He added that in view of the fact that a meeting will be held between the two presidents [Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri] and the Supreme Council for Integration tomorrow, it was decided to review all matters pertaining to the integration in order that implementation may start tomorrow.

In reply to a question about the topics to be discussed by the two presidents at tomorrow's integration meeting, Dr al-Baz said that there will be a discussion of all constitutional issues or topics connected with the facilitation of the economic activities and of ways to initiate the economic projects. He added that the integration fund will begin its activities at once so that the integration process may produce results tangible to both peoples within the framework of the development between the two countries.

In reply to a question whether today's meeting discussed what has been reiterated about a Libyan invasion of Sudan, Dr al-Baz said that this issue was not discussed at today's meeting but that Egypt's position in this regard is clear and declared and that it is as follows:

1. There are legal bonds between Egypt and Sudan placing Egypt in full solidarity with Sudan, and vice versa, to deter any foreign aggression from any source. In other words, any foreign aggression against either of the two countries places the other country in solidarity with it by virtue of the joint defense treaty.

2. Egypt absolutely does not interfere in Sudan's domestic affairs nor does Sudan interfere in Egypt's domestic affairs.

3. Egypt cannot enter into military operations against any Arab country under any circumstances. When we say that the October 1973 war is the last war, then with all the more reason we will not enter into a war against any Arab country or into military operations against Libya or others. It is not our intention at present or in the future to carry out such operations.

4. Egypt cannot participate with any foreign state or quarter in any operation against a neighboring state. If the question is one of aid to Sudan and its fraternal people against any foreign operations or threats, then Egypt will provide this aid to Sudan without the need for a third party's help or intercession, regardless of which it may be. We do not accept that a third state should involve itself between us and Sudan. We have absolutely not asked any state to dispatch forces or military aircraft or warships because this is not a part of our policy. We are not a part of any other state's strategy.

Answering another question on the Egyptian reaction to what has been announced in Khartoum about Libyan threats on the Sudanese border, Dr al-Baz said: We always demand that Libya stop the disturbances and threats along the Sudanese border and refrain from encouraging any other party to carry out such threats because this is an interference in the domestic affairs of Sudan, which has a joint defense treaty with us.

Al-Baz added: we believe that things have calmed down now. We hope that they [the Libyans] will not involve themselves in such matters. We support Sudan's safety and security against any threat to or aggression against it. We do not mean Libya here but any kind of danger or threat to Sudan. We will definitely side with Sudan in the event of any aggression against it.

Dr al-Baz went on: In such a case, we will not be against Libya but against the danger and threat to Sudan. As I have previously said, we are not carrying out and will not carry out any military operations against any Arab state. This must be clear.

Asked if he meant by this that Egypt will not defend Sudan if it is attacked, Dr al-Baz denied this saying Egypt will side with Sudan against any danger or threat it might encounter. He added: Egypt will side with Sudan if it is subjected to any danger or threat from any quarter because we have a joint defense treaty with it and because Sudan's security is part of Egypt's security and vice versa.

ABU GHAZALAH DENIES THREAT TO SUDAN

NC201410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) -- The joint military discussions between the U.S. side led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Francis West, who is currently visiting Cairo, and the Egyptian side led by Assistant Defense Minister Major General Majid al-Farr began this morning at the Armed Forces headquarters.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah attended part of these meetings, following which he said that the two sides discussed military relations between Egypt and the United States only and that the two sides have not broached any other subjects.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that the first U.S. Hawkeye early warning aircraft will arive in Egypt during the year 1985-86. The defense and war production minister emphasized that Egypt will support Sudan in the event of any aggression against it in accordance with the joint defense agreement between the two countries. He denied that Sudan might be subjected to outside aggression.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah affirmed that his visit to Sudan the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, has no connection with any security conditions there, but that he is paying the visit in his capacity as a member of the Egyptian-Sudanese Supreme Council for Integration.

AWACS WILL LEAVE AFTER TRAINING PROGRAM

NC211516 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has stated that he will pay official visits to Italy and Yugoslavia in April in response to official invitations he received from both countries' defense ministers. He added that aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and both Italy and Yugoslavia in the field of arms will be discussed during the visit.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah further said Egypt will set the date for the departure of the AWACS aircraft from Egyptian territory when the program of training the Egyptian crews on the early warning system equipment in these aircraft ends.

In press statements he made today following the inauguration of a scientific seminar held at the Military Technical College, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah denied that joint Egyptian-Sudanese military exercises are being carried out at present. He pointed out that the holding of such exercises in the future will be planned.

AL-AKHBAR ON AL-QADHDHAFI'S THREATENING SUDAN

NC210839 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AKHBAR vehemently denounces the conspiracies that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is concocting and his massing of gangs of saboteurs and his masterminding of a coup in Sudan. The paper says it is imperative for Al-Qadhdhafi to understand that Sudan has become one with Egypt in all domains, that the Nile Valley is one sanctuary all along the one river under the aegis of the one people, and that any provocation directed against Sudan is, in fact, a provocation directed against Egypt and against the unity of the Nile Valley.

In today's editorial, the paper adds: This frivolity of the Libyan ruler harms not only Sudan but Egypt and all Arab states devoting their attention to the Arab cause and to the Arabs' prestige in the world and the international community.

AL-AKHBAR, noting that this is not the first time Al-Qadhdhafi has conspired against Sudan, says that since he assumed power, Al-Qadhdhafi has been concocting plots against Sudan in particular.

The paper asks the Arabs to reach a firm opinion and to agree on one policy for dealing with Al-Qadhdhafi and for deterring this wanton recklessness that he raises from time to time within the Arab community. The paper adds that, in practicing this evil recklessness, Al-Qadhdhafi does not hesitate to concoct plots and to mass gangs of saboteurs to wreak destruction.

MUHYI AD-DIN FETES INDIAN VICE PRESIDENT 19 FEB

NC192135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din gave a dinner banquet tonight at At-Tahirah Palace in honor of Indian Vice President Mohammad Hidayatullah on the occasion of his visit to Cairo.

The banquet was attended by ministers, senior state officials, members of the delegation accompanying the Indian vice president, and Indian Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Gonsalves.

In a speech at the banquet, Dr Muhyi ad-Din praised the strong relations between Egypt and India and noted that the two countries had struggled for a long time until they founded the Nonaligned Movement. He said: Here in Egypt we fully appreciate the major role the Indian Government is carrying out in supporting the Palestinian question.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din added: We are looking forward to the nonaligned conference which will convene in India next month and we hope it will lead to bringing about a just and lasting peace in the area.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din mentioned the Iraqi-Iranian war and its destructive effects on the two countries' economies. He expressed the hope that the conference's efforts will lead to this war's end. He also expressed the hope that the conference will find a solution to the problems of Afghanistan, Cambodia and Namibia.

Concluding his speech, he wished the Indian guest a happy stay in Egypt.

Indian Vice President Mohammad Hidayatullah expressed profound gratitude for the hospitality accorded him in Egypt, which reflects the strong historic relations linking the two countries since ancient times. He said the Indian Government and people are looking forward to President Husni Mubarak's attending the Nonaligned Movement conference, among whose founders are Egypt, India, and Yugoslavia.

Mohammad Hidayatullah expressed the hope that the conference will strengthen and revive the movement so that it will carry out its role in solving the people's problems.

The Indian guest tomorrow will visit the unknown soldier's monument, the tomb of late leader Anwar as-Sadat, and archaeological sites in the pyramids.

Mubarak Receives Hidayatullah

NC211109 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA) -- This morning in Al-'Urubah Palace, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Indian Vice President Mohammad Hidayatullah, who is now on a visit to Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Justice Minister Ahmad Mamduh 'Atiyah, who also heads the Indian guest's escort of honor, and by Indian Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Sylvester Gonsalves.

President Mubarak's meeting with the Indian vice president lasted about 1 hour.

The Indian vice president arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday for a visit of several days, during which he will hold discussions on a number of topics of mutual interest and on the consolidation of mutual relations.

MUHYI AD-DIN URGES PNC TO ADOPT 'SERIOUS STEPS'

NC191345 Cairo MENA in English 1320 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 19 (MENA) -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din urged the Palestinian National Council currently in session in Algiers to adopt serious steps toward the available peace initiatives and to consider the time factor before the American Administration becomes preoccupied in the presidential elections.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din expressed Egypt's hope that Iraq and Iran end the war between them peacefully.

This came in a speech by Muhyi ad-Din at the inauguration of the 7th session of the institute of preparing the NDP youth leaderships at As-Salam City.

'ALI, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR MEET 20 FEB

NC201506 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) -- MENA has learned that during their meeting today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali drew the attention of Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason to what is taking place in southern Lebanon.

'Ali also told the Israeli ambassador about the contents of the statement he made at the People's Assembly last week regarding conditions in Lebanon, particularly in southern Lebanon, and Egypt's attitude toward them. The deputy prime minister pointed out that Egypt has deposited this statement as one of the UN documents on this situation, which Egypt rejects.

At the meeting, 'Ali emphasized Egypt's stand on the importance of the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli military forces from every inch of Lebanon and of restoration of the Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

It has been learned that the discussions also dealt with the consultations regarding the Tabah issue and with resolving the disagreement on this issue in accordance with the 25 April 1982 [Egyptian-Israeli] agreement.

MUBARAK, NUMAYRI TO CHAIR COUNCIL 22 FEB

NC191535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and [Sudanese] President Ja'far Numayri will chair the meetings of the first session of the Higher Council for Integration between Egypt and Sudan. The meetings will begin in Khartoum on Tuesday [22 February].

In stating this, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that, during its session, the council will discuss the bylaws of the integration bodies, particularly the council's Secretariat General and the Integration Fund. However, the bylaws will be discussed by the joint Nile Valley Parliament.

Director of the Integration Fund Dr Nazih Dayf; Major General 'Abd as-Sattar Amin, council assistant secretary general; and a number of experts will leave Cairo for Khartoum this evening to prepare for the council's meetings.

'ALI MEETS WITH VISITING JEWISH OFFICIAL

NC191643 Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali conferred here today with visiting chairman of the Jewish Agency M. Fisher on the Middle East situation and the Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Fisher stressed the agency's stance rejecting the establishing of the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip [which] impedes the way for peace.

Fisher is to visit Israel following the conclusion of his current visit here.

MILITARY SPOKESMAN WARNS IRAN NOT TO SHELL CITIES

JN181733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman has warned the Tehran rulers against continuing their aggressive policy of striking at Iraqi civilian targets and personnel. In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman reiterated yesterday's warning by Iraq which called on the Tehran rulers not to make any more foolish mistakes and to stop their immoral behavior, which is detrimental to their people's interests.

The spokesman said that the Tehran regime had violated the most elementary principles of a moral commitment to international norms and conventions. Its violations in various fields have reached unbearable proportions, such as striking at Iraqi civilian targets and personnel. Iraq, he said, has been trying not to retaliate in kind against this behavior but the Tehran regime has continued to indulge in shelling Israeli cities such as Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, and Zurbatiyah; particularly recently. He added that the increase in the barbaric shelling of Iraqi cities in answer to Iraq's commitment to the principle of desisting from shelling populated Iraqi cities, despite the presence of vital military targets there, will regrettably force us to violently retalitate against the shelling of Iraqi cities, with our apologies to the Iranian people. We are always committed to defending the security and interests of the Iraqi people.

The spokesman called on the Iranian peoples to bring pressure to bear on their rulers to make them avoid shelling Iraqi cities.

IRANIAN STATEMENTS ON POW'S 'DISMISSED'

JN191426 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has dismissed Iranian statements that Iran is prepared to receive its children POW's via the International Red Cross [IRC], stressing that these statements are more of the Iranian regime's lies and deceit.

Tehran radio broadcast a statement last night by Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the so-called Iranian Consultative Council, in which he said that his country is prepared to receive the Iranian children POW's via the IRC or any other side except France.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that the unconditional hand over of the Iranian children POW's via the IRC had been initiated by Iraq. He added that the IRC in Geneva has set 15 February as a date for the hand over. The Iranian regime, however, told the IRC on 10 February that it was unwilling to receive its children POW's or set another date before 26 March.

The spokesman asserted that the 15 February date was agreed upon by the two sides, adding that Iraq has almost completed all technical matters. He denied that Iraq ever made it a condition that France be the venue for the hand over. He said that Iraq had given the IRC the option of choosing the date and venue it deems fit for delivering these children, but never mentioned France specifically; Iraq said that France could be an option.

The spokesman refuted previous Iranian statements that the children are not Iranians, adding that the irrefutable facts have shown that these claims are false.

The spokesman reaffirmed Iraq's good intentions and desire to establish friendly relations and neighborliness with the Iranian people, as confirmed by President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iranian people and Iranian army on 16 February.

Continuing, the spokesman said that despite the attempts by the ruling Khomeyniite clique in Tehran and Qom to conceal and falsify facts, their masks will fall and their schemes will be exposed to the Iranian peoples and world public opinion.

He said that the attitude of the ruling clique in Tehran toward the children POW's has demonstrated this clique's indifference over and disregard of the fate and life of the Iranian people. He added that this clique should have grabbed Iraq's unconditional peaceful initiative, but it seems that destruction and killing dominate their mentality.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 18-21 FEB

Communique No 1,004

JN181701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi naval units today attacked an enemy naval target west of Khowr-e Musa, scoring direct, effective hits which destroyed it. Iraqi Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1004, issued here this evening, said that the Iraqi forces have killed 80 Iranian soldiers, wounded several others, and destroyed 2 tanks and 1 infantry position in the Maysan sector and the area east of Basra. The communique added that the artillery of the Khomeyniite clique, which is indulging in evil and aggression, today shelled Mandali and its suburbs intermittently, injuring a little girl and two other civilians, and damaging five residential buildings and two civilian vehicles. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1004 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave Iraqi Army is continuing to carry out its historic, noble tasks of defending the dear homeland, confronting the unjust Khomeyniite aggression, and fighting the aggressors on land, at sea, and in the air. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. At 1321 today, on of our brave naval units carried out a surprise attack against a hostile enemy target west of Khowr-e Musa [strait], scoring direct, effective hits which destroyed it.

2. Our forward units attacked with various weapons an enemy concentration in front of our forces in the Maysan sector, killing 79, wounding several others, and destroying and setting fire to 1 tank.

3. One was killed and one tank and one infantry position destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. The artillery of the Khomeyniite clique, which is indulging in evil and aggression, today shelled Mandali and its suburbs intermittently, injuring a little girl and two other civilians, and damaging five residential buildings and two civilian vehicles.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1983

Communique No 1,005

JN191624 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi forces have killed four Iranians, wounded others, and destroyed one vehicle during the past 24 hours in the area east of Basra. This was noted in Communique No 1005 issued tonight by the Armed Forces General Command. The communique pointed out that the Iranian enemy today shelled Mandali and its environs, damaging some civilian installations.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1005 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With men, whose hearts are imbued with determination, endurance, and tenaciousness, our brave armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the ruling clique in Tehran and Qom whose mentality is full of vileness and grudges. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. One of our forward units attacked an enemy troop concentration in the area east of Basra, killing four, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle.

2. The grudge-bearing Iranian enemy today shelled Mandali and its evirons, damaging some civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1983

Communique No 1,006

JN201714 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1006 issued on 20 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic armed forces continued their brave operations in the various operational sectors against Khomeyni's expansionist and aggressive policy. The results for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our frontline forces, using different types of weapons, engaged enemy positions and concentrations facing their positions in the Maysan operational sector inflicting 132 dead and several wounded. One armored personnel carrier, one excavator, and one arms depot were destroyed.

2. Five were killed and one rocket launcher and one stockpile of arms were destroyed in the northern operational sector.

3. Two centers for arms and personnel and one stockpile of arms were destroyed east of Basra.

4. The artillery of the racist Iranian regime today shelled the towns of Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah. This savage enemy shelling injured two women and damaged several houses in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1983

Communique No 1,007

JN211728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1007 issued on 21 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed force continued their courageous operations in the various operational sectors against the forces of the rancorous and racist Khomeyni clique. The results for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our frontline units, using different types of weapons, struck at an enemy concentration point facing their positions in the Maysan operational sector and inflicted 24 dead and several wounded. Two vehicles, one 106-mm gun, two arms stockpiles, and one observation post were destroyed.

2. One of the enemy was killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One of the enemy was killed and three centers for arms and personnel and one heavy machinegun were destroyed in the region east of the Basra region. An enemy soldier deserting from the tyranny and terrorism of the ruling oppressive regime in Iran sought refuge with one of our frontline units in the same sector. He was safely removed to the rear lines.

4. The artillery of the criminal Khomeyni regime today shelled the cities of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. This savage enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of three civilians and the wounding of 17 others, including a woman. It also damaged three houses, three stores, a gas station, a coffee shop, a restaurant, a hotel, a factory, and four civilian vehicles in the city of Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1983

IRAQI AMBASSADOR MEETS IZVESTIYA CHIEF EDITOR

JN191055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0731 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb (INA) -- The Iraqi ambassador to the USSR yesterday met with (Nikolayevich Tolkhunov), chief editor of IZVESTIYA, an organ of the USSR Government.

During this meeting, they exchanged viewpoints on ways developing bilateral relations for the welfare of the Iraqi and Soviet peoples in accordance with the bases set out by the treaty of friendship between the two countries. They also discussed several current international issues as well as the developments of the Iraq-Iran conflict. Their viewpoints were close to a large degree.

The ambassador informed the IZVESTIYA chief editor in detail of the background of the Arab-Iranian dispute in general and the Iraq-Iran conflict in particular, and the peace initiatives which have been proposed by Iraq to end the war and the fighting between the two countries.

The ambassador explained Iraq's positive attitude toward and support for all international initiatives and the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization to stop this war, initiatives and efforts which were rejected by the Iranian side.

The Soviet official showed a clear understanding of Iraq's positive attitude on stopping the war and solving it peacefully, and of the need for solidarity among the Arab countries to face the danger represented by Israel and imperialism.

UNDER SECRETARY LEAVES FOR NEW DELHI 20 FEB

JN201313 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) -- 'Ismat Kittaini, Foreign Ministry under secretary, left for New Delhi today on a visit of several days to India during which he will convey an oral message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from President Saddam Husayn.

Reports here said the message deals with the work of the seventh summit of the nonaligned countries which will be held in New Delhi in March 1983.

OFFICIAL SOURCE DENIES AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

NC200929 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] An official source has denied reports in certain information media this morning on the existence of complex arrangements with regard to an agreement with Israel. The source said that there will be either an agreement on total withdrawals or nothing. He added that the U.S. side is still working on projected proposals for stances that are acceptable to both sides regarding the issues that still constitute the main obstacles. The source pointed out that the Lebanese stand is based on two primary principles: First, rejecting partial withdrawals and insisting on total withdrawals and, the second, rejecting any form of Israeli military presence on Lebanese territory.

PROGRESS IN TALKS WITH ISRAEL DISCUSSED

NC210750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating delegation will hold a meeting today to assess the situation in light of the proposals put forward and what Ambassador Morris Draper brought with him from Israel.

The government will provide the Lebanese delegation to the 17th round of the negotiations with clear and frank instructions on the proposed issues and matters.

Reports attributed to an informed source have said that progress has been made in the committees for terminating the state of war and for withdrawals. The source pointed out that obstacles continue to exist in the committees for security arrangements and mutual relations. In the opinion of the source, these obstacles are of an economic nature because Israel wants the borders to be opened to the movement of people and commodities from Israel to Lebanon and vice versa, while Lebanon wants the movement across the border to be controlled by the establishment of customs posts to regulate the flow of Israeli commodities and to prevent smuggling. Lebanon believes that the movement of people and the establishment of an Israeli representative office in Beirut having diplomatic characteristics must be agreed upon after the withdrawals have started and after the security arrangements and the termination of the state of war have been settled.

The source said he expects Ambassador Habib to return to Beirut this weekend after drawing up an agreement on the proposed compromise formulas and the plan for withdrawal.

The source said flexibility has been observed in the Israeli stand. This flexibility surfaced in the last round of negotiations. The source expressed the hope that this flexibility would continue, especially with regard to the subjects of withdrawals and security arrangements.

INFORMATION MINISTRY DISPATCH FROM NETANYA

NC220836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0742 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Information Ministry delegation from Dan Hotel in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] The weekly rounds of negotiations held between Lebanon and Israel, with the full participation of the Americans, cannot be entering a routine and monotonous phase since it's perhaps midway between reaching agreements on many points involving the question of the withdrawals along with the parallel ones uncovering the Israeli insistence on certain points in the security arrangements.

It is believed down here in Netanya that the subcommittees which will meet today will examine in depth and detail certain points already acceptable to both sides, the Lebanese and the Israelis.

We know that the U.S. envoy, Mr Philip Habib, and U.S. head of delegation, Mr Morris Draper, have been carrying out extensive talks in Tel Aviv aimed at reaching a first Lebanese-Israeli accord on a first possible withdrawal from the Lebanese mountain. As for the weather today, well it's still questionable and on the whole similar to the results of negotiations held today [as heard] in Netanya. Lebanon, we don't have to omit this point, is still adamant on its chief demand which is a full withdrawal of all foreign troops from our country.

Plenary Session Begins

NC220941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Information Ministry delegation in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] The three delegations began their plenary session at 1045 this morning. Answering a question, Dr Kimche, the head of the Israeli delegation, said that he was expecting good things from today's talks.

The general atmosphere in the conference hall is relaxed following extensive negotiations which are being held in Tel Aviv by U.S. Envoy Philip Habib.

We also note that the judiciary counsellor in the American delegation is absent on leave today while Ambassador Kharma from the Lebanese delegation joined anew his delegation after being absent on sick leave for the past week. At present, I believe, the plenary session will not be taking much time and will be curtailed after which the conferees will split to meet in subcommittees. We will be giving you ample information concerning their workings.

Subcommittees Begin Deliberations

NC221036 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0945 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Information Ministry delegation in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] What's new today after the beginning of talks in Netanya between the three delegations? Many topics were raised in the 17th plenary session this morning. The head of the Israeli delegation, Dr David Kimche, reiterated the intention of Israel to evacuate the country and reach accord with Lebanon.

Concerning certain comments that appeared in the Lebanese press, Dr Fattal answered -- and it was a question posed by Dr Kimche -- Dr Fattal answered that question, saying that, whatever the opinion of the press is, it will never affect the course of the negotiations now underway. Lebanon believes that the Syrians, as Dr Fattal put it, will honor their word and withdraw from Lebanon.

Following this, the subcommittees for the security arrangements and for the mutual relations met along with committees on the expert level. What's to be noted here is the formation of these expert committees to tackle seriously certain points that have been brought together and over which the two countries may have reached accord.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Dan Netanya.

SOURCES 'CATEGORICALLY' DENY AL-ASAD USSR VISIT

JN181608 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Official Syrian sources today categorically denied a report by the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which is published in Jidda and London, that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad paid a secret visit to the USSR during the past 24 hours and met with General Secretary Yuriy Andropov.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Report on Visit

PM181712 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 83 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent report: "Talks of a Military Nature: Al-Asad Visits Moscow Secretly"]

[Text] London -- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable sources that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made a secret lightening visit to Moscow during the past 24 hours and held talks of great importance with Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov.

President al-Asad left Damascus at dawn yesterday for Moscow on a visit shrouded in great secrecy.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Al-Asad had lunch yesterday with Yuriy Andropov during which the two leaders, whose countries are linked by a strategic alliance, held talks.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that during his lightning visit to Moscow the Syrian president was not accompanied by any Syrian official except for Syrian Army Chief of Staff Hikmat Ash-Shihabi. Although it was not possible to learn the nature of the talks between the two leaders, Ash-Shihabis' attendance with President al-Asad leaves the impression that the talks were more of a military than a political nature. It is worth noting that the Soviet Union recently supplied Syria the highly sophisticated SAM-5's, which have been deployed on Syrian territory.

Israel has launched a political campaign against this development and threatened to launch a lightning military operation to strike at those missiles, just as it did against the missiles deployed in Al-Biqa' during the invasion of Lebanon.

Political sources point out, however, the difficulty of destroying these missiles for Israel, not for military reasons but because the missiles are entirely operated by Soviet experts and such an action by Israel would mean the death of a number of those experts during such an operation and consequently a direct provocation of the Soviet Union and probable entry into direct confrontation with the Soviet Union -- a confrontation that neither Israel nor the United States wants.

OFFICIAL DENIES DIFFERENCES WITH PLO

GF181734 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Feb 83 pp 1, 21

[Khalil at-Taqi dispatch from Algiers]

[Excerpt] Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and leader of the Syrian delegation of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has affirmed to AL-QABAS that there are no Syrian-Palestinian differences because relations linking Syria with the Palestinian revolution are strategic and they have a common goal. However, he said, Syria is against the Palestinian move to follow Camp David.

He also affirmed that Syria will not recognize Israel now or in the future and what is currently going on is an affirmation of the Zionist-U.S. goal of changing the battle from a conflict of presence to that of borders. He warned against being deceived by U.S.-Israeli illusions.

The leader of the Syrian delegation concluded his statement by affirming that Syria will not withdraw any of its troops from Lebanon before the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier. He stressed that Syria does not have ambitions in Lebanon, as some Western parties rumor.

STAUNCH SUPPORT FOR LIBYA AGAINST ATTACK ASSERTED

JN181500 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] If we view Israel's hostile intentions against Syria in light of the U.S. hints of launching an attack against fraternal Libya, we are able to realize the joint U.S.-Israeli schemes to spread control over the Arab region by striking at the patriotic regimes and the progressive and free forces in it. It is not yet clear whether this aggression against Libya is stipulated in the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. We are, however, certain that the Israeli preparations and measures to commit aggression against Syria is within the framework of implementing the second article of this agreement; the first article having been implemented through the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

These are the main features of the joint U.S.-Israeli schemes to control the Arab region. Despite the fact that the aims of these plans are not confined to striking at the Arab patriotic and progressive regimes but also aim at our Arab nation's national existence, some Arab regimes are maintaining a complete and suspicious silence of humiliation and capitulation to the nation's enemies, if not open collusion with them. These regimes are keeping silent on the aggression and ignoring its threats to their future and destiny. It seems as though they were not concerned with this issue. In another context, they call for applying the Arab joint defense pact charter to back Saddam Husayn regime in launching its American war against the Iranian Revolution, which supports Arab rights and calls for restoring them, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue, the crux of the Arab nation's struggle with the Zionist enemy and its U.S. supporters.

What is even stranger is that there are regimes which are directly involved in implementing the aggression. The Egyptian and Sudanese regimes are openly threatening to commit aggression against Libya within the U.S. bloc of aggression. The U.S. 6th Fleet is approaching the Libyan coast, thus repeating the aggressive preparations which preceded the Gulf of Sidra operation. At the same time, the Egyptian regime is massing its forces in the western desert close to the Libyan border, and U.S. radar planes are flying in Egyptian airspace to carry out their assigned role in aggression.

Naturally, Syria will not stand idly by in the face of the premeditated aggression against the fraternal Libyan region. It will take the stand which it took in the summer of 1981 when President al-Asad asserted that Arab Syria was standing staunchly at the side of this fraternal country and would not spare any efforts to help it and increase its steadfastness against aggression. This is because the revolutionary regimes in heroic Syria and the struggling Jamahiriyah stand in one trench against the imperialist challenges and Zionist ambitions, and will not desert each other under any circumstances.

PROVOCATIONS OF 6TH FLEET MANEUVERS DENOUNCED

JN191558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has again resorted to flexing its military muscles in the Middle East and the Mediterranean and reminded people of the presence of the disreputable 6th Fleet in waters thousands of kilometers from the territorial waters, land, and airspace of the United States. The U.S. government announced, amid propaganda clamor to which Israeli circles and mass media contributed, that it sent the 6th Fleet units into waters close to Libyan territorial waters, perhaps in the Libyan territorial waters. The U.S. Government also sent AWACs to the Egyptian regime to monitor the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the alleged moves of its forces on Sudanese and Egyptian borders.

The U.S. pretext for this sudden and serious escalation of tension in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and North Africa is its allegation that the Libyan Jamahiriyah might invade Sudan by exploiting popular resentment and moves against Numayri's regime. General Vernon Walters, a U.S. State Department ambassador, is now in Khartoum. This pretext is baseless and no one can accept it.

The United States is not a guardian of the Middle East states and people and not a policeman regulating traffic on the roads that separate regimes and people. When a nation decides to get rid of a regime, which is working its will, hostile to its interests, and allied with its enemies, the United States and all its armed forces cannot prevent this. With all it political weight, all its military power, and all its aggressive savagery, the United States attempted to prevent the Vietnamese people from toppling the agent government in South Vietnam but it failed devastatingly and left of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea defeated, with the shame of aggression and the consequences of war crimes as well as crimes against humanity.

When the Sudanese people decide to get rid of Numayri's regime, all the U.S. forces will not be of use in saving him and the U.S. AWACs will not be able to mislead the radar of the Sudanese people's will. The Sudanese people are able to free themselves and they do not need Libyan military intervention.

The U.S. military escalation in the Mediterranean and the direct threat to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as well as the blatant military provocation against it, is an organized, planned, U.S. action which falls within the broad framework of the U.S. Administration's policy to heat up the international situation, escalate tension in the world and create hotbeds for the danger of military disputes. This U.S. action, whose danger to security and peace in the region and the world should be taken into account, is aimed at preoccupying people with a new, hot problem to draw attention away from Israel's crimes in Lebanon and the U.S. failure to fulfil its promises and pledges as well as to encourage defeatists, agents, and those who have deserted their people to join the process of spreading U.S. tutelage and surrended to Israel in the Arab homeland.

But the U.S. plans are doomed to fail and will inflict on it new losses in the region and the world. The United States is neither the only power nor the only all powerful force in the world, which can impose its will on others by force. If the 6th Fleet was, at some time in the past, a influential factor on development in the region, that time has gone for good. The time when the movement of an imperialist ship could topple and set up governments as well as the time when the planes and ships terrorized people and influenced their decision has also gone for good.

The Libyan Jamahiriyah, in defending its waters, territories, airspace, rights, and free will, is not and will not be alone. All the consequences which might emerge from this U.S. action will be borne by the U.S. Government.

NATIONAL LIBERATION ALLIANCE ISSUES STATEMENT

PM071623 [Editorial Report] London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic on 24 January 1983 publishes on pages 23 and 24 a 3,000-word "document" constituting "the full text of the statement of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria," on the situation in the country.

The article says that the statement was issued in December 1982 following a meeting in an unspecified place of "the constituent body of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria," attended by unnamed parties and individuals comprising the body.

The statement fiercely attacks President Hafiz al-Asad's regime, saying that since Al-Asad, as defense minister, surrendered the Golan Heights without a fight in 1967, the Syrian people have been living through one tragedy after another until "these culminated in the Hamah massacre in 1982."

"In all his actions," the statement says, Al-Asad is "motivated by a burning hostility to Arabs and Islam in that all his crimes are in the interest of the Zionist enemy." The article lists Al-Asad's actions in Lebanon and says that he entered it "with U.S. approval, nay at U.S. request, and with the approval of the Zionist enemy." He repressed the Palestinian people and acted against the Palestinian revolution there by restricting its actions and movements. During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Al-Asad "repeated in Lebanon what he did in the Golan: He withdrew from the battle when his was supposed to be the number one state of steadfastness," leaving the Palestinians to stand fast.

The statement goes on to list further actions by Al-Asad considered detrimental to joint Arab action, citing examples and incidents.

The statement goes on: "Hafiz al-Asad was not content with the bloodbaths he staged for the Palestinian and Syrian citizens; he also laid down the basis of a sectarian policy in Syria and Lebanon aimed at destroying their entity and their integrity." He implemented this policy "through attempts to give a sectarian characteristic to the state organs and establishments such as the army and the various utilities and sectors." The Alawite community in Syria, the statement asserts, "has nothing to do with this policy, did not strive for it and does not accept it. It is being pursued by Hafiz al-Asad with the aim of creating disturbances, serving Zionist objectives and perpetuating his stay in power."

For this reason, the statement says, "our people have revolted and will continue to hold the revolution's banner aloft until the tyrant falls and treason is defeated."

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, the statement says that while Al-Asad was withdrawing before the Israeli advance in Lebanon "leaving the few thousand Palestinian revolutionaries prey to the U.S. and Zionist enemy war machine, he was sending Syrian arms and ammunition to the Iranian regime in order to back it against Iraq. It was no coincidence that Iran timed its attack on Iraqi territory with the Israeli attack on Lebanon." Imperialism and Zionism want the Iraq-Iran war to continue in order to exhaust Arab resources. Therefore, "anybody who stands with the Zionist enemy against Iraq is an enemy of the Arab and Islamic nation.

The statement says that the Arabs who have participated in the Nonaligned Movement from the outset should continue to support, strengthen and broaden its base in order to ensure freedom and peace and stand against colonialism, racism, and Zionism.

The statement says that the United States "has been and still is a basic enemy of our nation. Its policy is based on subjugating our Arab homeland in order to dominate our oilfields, which provide it and its allies with energy; also because our region is strategically important in both cold and hot wars with the Soviet Union. It still provides Israel with means of aggression and expansion."

Referring to the Soviet Union, the statement says that "the proximity of our Arab east to its borders and the rivalry and confrontation between it and the United States makes us a subject of interest to it and its friends." Therefore it is necessary, it goes on, for "our friendship with the Soviets to be different in nature from the U.S. friendship with Israel." However, "we do not belittle or shun that friendship; we duly appreciate it through our appreciation of the important Soviet role in international politics and of its declared stand, that it is with the peoples and against imperialism, racism, Zionism, and dictatorship."

Referring once again to Syria, the statement says that Israel was not defeated because it has a "high commissioner" in Damascus [Al-Asad] who "before the Israeli aggression attacked Hamah and after it attacked Iraq."

Concluding, the statement assures the Syrian people that their struggle will eventually "dispel the darkness" engulfing their country and teach a lesson to the "wrongdoers."

ANTI-SYRIAN ALLIANCE ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO PNC

JN142010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Beirut, 14 Feb (INA) -- The National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria has urged the Palestine National Council [PNC], now convening in Algiers, to reassess the stands and extricate the Palestinian revolution from the dilemma into which it has been ragged by Hafiz al-Asad. The alliance warned against reliquishing the fateful battle and wasting the huge sacrifices offered by the Palestinian people. It also warned against allowing Hafiz al-Asad to cause havoc to the Arab nation.

In a message to the PNC today, the alliance explained that the Palestinian revolution has been driven toward catastrophies by a well-planned scheme of the Syrian regime. It asserted that the Palestinian revolution should no longer remain silent over the sucessive crimes that the Syrian regime has committed against it because this silence would protect the killer and embarrass its loyal friends.

The alliance said it is the right of the Arab people to hear from the Palestinian revolution how it has been betrayed by Hafiz al-Asad and how the latter assassinated Sa'd Sayil, the hero of the Beirut battle. Similarly, it is the right of the Arab people to know how Hafiz al-Asad attempted to dismember the Palestinian revolution before and after the Beirut battle.

The alliance pointed out that imperialism and Zionism have been intensifying their treacherous practices against the Arab nation due to the absence of the effective Arab force, the isolation of the Syrian people and the preoccupation of Iraq with the war against Iran.

The alliance explained that the Palestinian revolution, which can only be a revolution and not a regime, has the guts to call a spade a spade and to straighten the state of affairs through its testimony.

The alliance greeted the PNC and vowed to topple Hafiz al-Asad and redress Syria to its right course toward the Palestine battle in cohesion with the Palestinian force and the Arab people so that it will serve as the beacon for freedom and free men in the Arab nation.

SCHIFFER REVIEWS 20 FEBRUARY CABINET MEETING

TA201143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet meeting was shortened today due to the commemoration ceremony for the soldiers who fell in Israel's campaign whose place of burial is unknown. Prime Minister Begin took part in this ceremony.

According to the prime minister's proposal, Minister Ari'el Sharon was incorporated into the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. This is the topic with which Menahem Begin opened the Cabinet meeting. Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori voted against this proposal, six ministers supported it, and a number of ministers abstained. Mr Tzipori explained his opposition as follows: At the time when the composition of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs was discussed and he was not included in the committee, although in his opinion he should have been a member due to his qualifications and his experience with security matters, Mordekhay Tzipori was told that membership on the committee went according to coalition considerations and that there was no room for another minister from the Herut movement. Tzipori today mentioned this explanation, and if this was indeed the reason, then in Tzipori's opinion there is no room for the addition of another member now. Tzipori said that if another member is added then he too has the appropriate qualifications for membership on this committee. Tzipori listed his qualifications saying that Minister David Levi too deserves being incorporated in the committee. Minister Tzipori wanted the vote on this issue to be postponed by a week so he could consult his colleagues, the ministers. With some impatience, as the meeting participants testified, the prime minister rejected his request saying that a vote should take place today. This is how things went finally and Ari'el Sharon was incorporated into the committee.

The negotiations with Lebanon: On this issue, the Cabinet was briefed by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Foreign Minister Shamir. The two talked about a certain progress in the negotiations. Perhaps a new nuance may have been sounded in their ramarks today: There is no talk any longer about early warning stations which Israel wants to set up in the security zones in southern Lebanon but rather about observation points [nequdot tatzpit]. Progress has been made on this issue too but there are no agreement and conclusions yet.

As for normalization, deadlock prevails. The dispute between Israel and Lebanon focuses on the fact that Lebanon wants to reach normalization with Israel while Israel wants to reach a full agreement on normalization and start implementing it immediately.

Both Minister Shamir and David Kimche said the time has now come for decisions to be made on the highest political level, between Philip Habib and the supreme steering committee and the prime minister. Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also reported to the ministers that according to information he possesses, the Syrians do not intend to leave Lebanon.

Minister Moda'i posed two questions during the Cabinet meeting today. He asked about reports on a national unity government: What is the state of affairs as far as this issue is concerned? The prime minister answered that there have recently been contacts on this issue but that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres already announced this morning that the Labor Party center's decision against joining a national unity government is still in effect and therefore there is nothing to talk about. The ministers got the impression that the prime minister is not especially interested in reaching an arrangement with the Alignment.

The second question posed by Minister Moda'i today: He asked about events in Chad and how Israel views these events. He received an answer to this too.

Now, as for the issue of the establishment of a national security council next to the prime minister's office, this issue is not new. Several ministers have for long now thought that the Cabinet should fully implement the recommendations of the Agranat commission [set up after the Yom Kippur war] and not just those of the Kahan commission with everything pertaining to the procedures of a working Cabinet. However, in the opinion of a number of ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Education Minister Zvulun Hammer, now, following the Kahan commission's recommendations, it is absolutely necessary to set up a body next to the prime minister's office which will aid the prime minister with intelligence work and with making decisions on these issues. Today, the prime minister is aided by an officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, Lieutenant Colonel 'Azri'el Nevo, who serves as the prime minister's military secretary. He is the person who transmits to the prime minister the information on intelligence and other issues. However, a number of ministers believe this is not enough and that an officer of this rank will no longer be able to transmit the information as well as make his assessment to the prime minister about the various issues. Therefore, several ministers believe that either a body should be set up or an authoritative personage in these spheres be appointed to advise the prime minister on all these issues. Minister Zvulun Hammer has already proposed, in one of the Cabinet's recent meetings, that the Cabinet set up a team or that the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs itself deal with the full implementation of the Kahan commission's recommendations in everything concerning the Cabinet work, the receipt of reports from the Defense Ministry by the prime minister's office, and the ties between the prime minister and the defense establishment in general.

Further Details

TA201224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Ari'el Sharon was coopted into the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and the steering committee for the negotiations with Lebanon. In this morning's Cabinet meeting, the request by Communications Minister Tzipori to join the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and that the decision on Sharon's cooption be postponed by a week was rejected. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister has changed the criterion for membership on this committee and that Sharon should be coopted into it according to his qualifications and experience.

The foreign minister and the director general of his ministry reported to the ministers that according to information they possess, the Syrians do not intend to leave Lebanon. They did emphasize that additional progress was made in formulating the clauses of the agreement with Lebanon. After the meeting, several ministers said Minister Shamir no longer spoke about early warning stations but about observation points [nequdot tatzpit] Israel wants to set up in southern Lebanon.

During the meeting, the prime minister said there is no room for talk about a national unity government after Shim'on Peres announced that the decision against joining the government is still in effect.

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON KAHAN REPORT 14 FEBRUARY

PM211619 Paris LE MATIN in French 16 Feb 83 p 11

[Interview with former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by Shalom Cohen in Jerusalem on 14 February]

[Text] LE MATIN: What is your assessment of the week: victory, defeats, the end of a career, of an ambition?

Sharon: You can make the assessment yourself; there is no doubt that it was tough, but the fact is that I am still a government member.

LE MATIN: Is that so important?

Sharon: Very important. Not the personal aspect but the political implication. I do not deny that these years in the Cabinet have been exciting; taking decisions, doing things, creating new situations. But that is not the most important thing. I wanted to remain a member of the government to promote the cause which I regard as most important -- the cause of Eretz Israel.

LE MATIN: But you are no longer defense minister. What influence will you have in the Cabinet?

Sharon: I start work on my farm tomorrow. I will attend the Cabinet meetings each Sunday. If I am given jobs I will do them. But I can assure you of one thing: A Cabinet with Sharon is not the same as a Cabinet without Sharon.

LE MATIN: Menahem Begin is seen as having been the cleverer of the two of you. He is seen as having come through unscathed, having centered the whole political campaign on your resignation without being called into question himself.

Sharon: I leave it to others to judge the prime minister's actions. I can only explain my actions. From the start I had to avoid the double trap awaiting me: on the one hand being forced to tender my resignation and on the other being sacked. I succeeded. I did not resign and I was not sacked.

LE MATIN: How?

Sharon: I carefully studied the constitution on the government. I decided from the start that the solution should lie in Article 17, which refers to a transfer of duties within the Cabinet. I was behind the proposals for that. When Begin accepted them I informed him that I was prepared to hand the defense portfolio back to him. I did not tender my resignation in my letter and I specified that I do not intend to leave the government.

LE MATIN: How will you feel in the company of 16 colleagues who all voted against you?

Sharon: Those colleagues obviously have a problem.... They thought they had gotten rid of Sharon. They will have to get used to the situation.

LE MATIN: Do you feel betrayed?

Sharon: Unfortunately that is politics. We had differences of opinion, even quarrels in the army too. But within limits. In political life those limits do not exist. But I am a strong man.

I do not know from whom I inherited my constitution and my tenacity, but they are facts. I have succeeded in withstanding the harshest blows, I will withstand this one too. Nonetheless, I must add that this government has enabled me to do everything I thought essential to guarantee Eretz Israel and our right to this land. I am not talking about the days when I was agriculture minister and in charge of establishing settlements. But as defense minister, I founded 34 new settlements.

LE MATIN: Have you nothing to say about the report published by the commission of inquiry?

Sharon: First it should be noted that I am the only person among all those cited by the commission who has shouldered his responsibilities, the only one who acted on the report and paid the price. I am the only one, you see.

LE MATIN: There are the generals too....

Sharon: I tell you that I am the only one.

LE MATIN: Aside from the personal consequences, what do you think of the inquiry's conclusions?

Sharon: Without going into details, there is one thing which I totally reject -- the assertion by the commission that Israel -- hence the whole state, its army, the population, you as much as I -- bears indirect responsibility for the massacres. That is unacceptable. I will continue to insist that that sentence be removed from the report. It is an accusation which will not be erased in the next 10 generations. Look, this morning, just before I left the Defense Ministry, the Lebanese poetess (May Murr) came to see me. She was anxious to thank me for my help to the Lebanese Christians in front of the representatives of the press and the cameras which filled my office. She said that it is not the real guilty parties who have been punished for the massacres.

LE MATIN: When taking leave of your staff at the Defense Ministry you mentioned the possibility that in the future, the Israeli Government might not be firm enough in that face of Arab threats.

Sharon: With pressures from outside and internal divisions, in a government faced with the need to act, we might in fact witness vacillation which would endanger the country. Israel is only strong when it uses the option of preventive action. For that, it is necessary to have the courage to decide and act. If an Arab country equips itself with nuclear weapons, if Egypt sends its army to the Sinai, if other challenges of that type arise, will we be able to act in time?

LE MATIN: What about the immediate future?

Sharon: We must face difficult situations, especially in Lebanon. Believe me, the security measures which we are demanding are the minimum acceptable.

I know this country like the back of my hand. When I say that it is necessary to keep warning posts, it is because they are vital if we want to ensure that katyushas do not fall on Nahariyya, Qiryat Shemona, and Dovev again.

There are also the negotiations on the future of Judea and Samaria, and the pressures which are looming.... We must stand firm.

LE MATIN: Do you think that Israel can withstand the American pressures?

Sharon: Certainly! We are strong. We simply have to be able to make decisions.

ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS RESUME IN NETANYA 18 FEB

TA181131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, with U.S. participation, are continuing in Netanya. The head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, says that everything is fine. Our correspondent Mikha Friedman reports that Lebanese sources have reported on difficulties that cropped up in the talks, but according to Kimche, there are always problems in any negotiations, and he has no doubt these could be surmounted.

This morning, two subcommittees met: The one on military issues dealing with security arrangements, and the legal one. The plenary met about 30 minutes ago, and first celebrated Ambassador Morris Draper's birthday.

Agreement on Withdrawal Denied

TA201022 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Over the last 24 hours, contradictory reports spread about an agreement in principle between Israel and Lebanon concerning a partial withdrawal of the IDF and of the Syrian Army from Lebanon.

Sources in Beirut reported that an agreement on the withdrawal of the IDF and of the Syrian forces from areas around Beirut and the Ash-Shuf mountains is expected "very soon" and that this withdrawal will be carried out within 2 weeks.

The Italian press has even gone further and reported yesterday that an agreement has already been reached and that in the first stage, all forces will withdraw a distance of 15 km from their present positions.

This morning, these reports were totally denied in Jerusalem. It was noted that the deep disputes between Israel, the Lebanese, and the Americans have not yet been settled.

At the end of the week, U.S. envoy Philip Habib met with the head of the Israeli negotiations delegation, David Kinche, and with Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Hanan Bar-On and expressed disappointment with the slow pace of the talks. The three discussed ways of speeding up the talks.

Levi Sees Progress in Talks

TA211439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said that appreciable progress has been achieved in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and there is a reasonable chance that an agreement will soon be obtained with the Government of Lebanon. He has said that Israel is working in full coordination with the United States and this coordination has already begun to bear fruit. Levi made these remarks to our correspondent Yo'el Dar when he visited Migal Ha'emeq.

U.S. PREPARED TO GUARANTEE NORTHERN BORDER

TA220546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The United States is prepared to make guarantees to Israel about the security of the northern border following withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. This is according to reliable sources in Washington. No details are known about the guarantee.

The Reagan administrative has been complaining about the pace of negotiations over Lebanon aimed at getting foreign forces out of the country. Israel has been demanding proper security arrangements that would ensure that the PLO does not return to the area once Israeli forces are out.

Talks between Israel and Lebanon resume today in Netanya. The last round of negotiations set for Thursday was called off because of the stormy weather. Reports from Beirut indicate that the Lebanese have agreed to allowing Major Haddad's forces to control southern Lebanon which in turn leads to Israel's scaling down of its demand from early-warning stations in the area to observation posts.

MILITARY SPOKESMAN ON INCIDENT WITH FRENCH

TA181254 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] A report from Beirut says Israeli troops tried to disarm a French military convoy near Beirut on Thursday. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS the Israelis demanded that the French hand over their weapons and the French refused, but an Israeli military spokesman said that the report was exaggerated.

He explained that UN troops entering Beirut from South Lebanon must keep their guns inside their vehicles. The French convoy had machineguns mounted on the vehicles and this is what caused the dispute.

EYTAN SAYS ROADS 'BLOCKED' IN LEBANESE BLIZZARD

TA210620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] One hundred have frozen to death, trapped on the Beirut-Damascus highway by a snowstorm. This according to the Christian radio stations in Beirut. Dozens more are still stuck. One of the broadcasts said that the Japanese ambassador to Lebanon was among the victims. Another report from Beirut says that 39 people died in the central mountains because of the blizzard. Israel's chief of staff, General Eytan, said the Israel army is not in control of the areas hit by the storm. He charged that roads have been blocked there, leaving people to freeze to death. He did not say who is responsible.

JORDAN TV TO BROADCAST INTERVIEW ON ISRAELI POW'S

TA201241 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Feb 83 p 6

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] "The release of the Israeli prisoners from the terrorists' hands can be implemented 24 hours after the conclusion of the Palestinian summit in Algier." This was said last night by a broadcaster on Jordanian television, (Harun) Mahmud, who said he was quoting 'Arafat's deputy, Abu Jihad, whom he interviewed in the Palace of Nations in Algier.

According to Abu Jihad, the release of the prisoners can be implemented if Israel agrees to an exchange of prisoners. The Jordanian broadcaster promised that an interview with Abu Jihad and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the issue of POW's will shortly be shown on Jordanian television.

According to the Jordanian broadcaster, he was also told by 'Arafat that he is not opposed to the arrival of two mothers of the soldiers held captive by Ahmad Jibril's men for a visit with their sons.

According to the Jordanian broadcaster, he was told by Abu Jihad that "the mothers are no different from the mothers of the Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. We want to put an end to this pain and nightmare experienced by the mothers of all prisoners."

The Jordanian broadcaster denied a report emanating from Israel that the attitude of the terrorists toward the Israeli prisoners has grown worse. Nevertheless, a PLO source warned, in an interview with Jordanian television, that the good treatment of the Israeli prisoners will change if Israel "continues to behave in a barbaric manner toward the Palestinian prisoners it holds."

The Jordanian television last night screened another interview with one of the six soldiers held captive by the PLO. This was an interview with soldiers Avi Zehavi from 'Akko. Due to difficulties with reception during the photographing of the interview, it was impossible to understand a lot of what the Israeli prisoner said. Among other things he said: "It is not terrible to be in a Palestinian jail."

To the question of whether he does not think that the Israeli leaders conned the IDF soldiers in the Lebanese war, the Israeli soldier gave a negative answer.

JORDAN SAID 'RESHUFFLING' SUPPORTERS IN W. BANK

TA191112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Jordan is effecting a personnel reshuffle in the leadership of the camp of its supporters in Judaea and Samaria in view of its failure to obtain signatures on a pro-Jordanian manifesto in the territories. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that the governor of the Jerusalem district, Anwar al-Khatib, went to Amman about 2 weeks ago to report about this failure. It was then decided in Amman to demote some central figures who are supporters of Jordan, and instead rely on others. There will also be changes in the Jordanian office for Judaea and Samaria affairs [title of office as heard]; among other things the status of the person in charge of that office, (Shawkat Mahkud) will very likely be hampered, and he may even be dismissed.

Further Report

TA190718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Contacts have begun in Jordan toward establishing a new government to be headed by Zayd ar-Rifa'i or 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and some ministers from Judaea and Samaria may be incorporated in it. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that this move began after Yasir 'Arafat found that he could not promise King Husayn clear authorization to represent the Palestinians in the political process.

Amman is awaiting the outcome of the Palestine National Council resolutions in order to make a decision on this matter. The PLO will undoubtedly oppose the appointment of ministers from the territories in the Jordanian Cabinet, as such a move would allow Jordan to join the political process without need for a power of attorney from the PLO.

Our correspondent points out that Jordan has already employed steps to reincorporate personalities from the territories in its administration. The Advisory Council, which substitutes for the Jordanian Parliament, has incorporated inhabitants from the territories for the first time. They are (Zamira Zaru), the wife of the former Ramallah mayor, and (Khalid Fayyad) from Tulkarm, who was employed by the military government's agriculture staff.

EYTAN SAYS PAKISTANI TANKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

TA202019 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan disclosed this evening that in Tabuk, in Saudi Arabia, a distance of about 200 km from Elat, a Pakistani tank brigade is stationed. At a talk with students from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the chief of staff said less than an hour ago that it would be incorrect to say that, as a result of the inquiry commission's report, Israel's deterrent power had been harmed. As will be recalled, Minister Ari'el Sharon said before resigning from the post of defense minister that Israel's deterrent power had been harmed by the report. The chief of staff also disclosed that before the war, the IDF learned that the terrorists had plans to attack the Haifa oil refineries, in coordination with the Syrians.

ISRAEL, EGYPT MAY RESUME TABAH TALKS 'THIS WEEK'

TA220548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Israel and Egypt may resume the negotiations on the disputed area of Tabah, near Elat, this week. The negotiations on the normalization agreements will also begin shortly. Their implementation has been halted as a result of the war in Lebanon. This agreement [sikum] was reached in accelerated secret contacts held between the representatives of the two countries, with U.S. mediation. Here is a report on this by our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer:

[Begin recording] Tabah is going to be discussed, and already this week teams from both countries will meet in Ismailia to discuss events in the contentious area and the arrangements that will be effected there until Tabah's final status is determined through arbitration or by U.S.-prompted compromise.

Israeli and Egyptian delegations will soon -- in fact in 10 days -- begin discussing the other disputed issues, such as the normalization matters and other clauses of the peace agreement which Egypt has been procrastinating about with regard to its implementation.

This solution was obtained following strained efforts and with great secrecy toward resuming practical ties between Israel and Egypt. The partners, primarily the United States, were the ones who proposed the formula for this: to begin, discussing what the Egyptians feel is the pressing issue -- the disputed area at Tabah -- and then, as though totally disconnected with the former -- the normalization issues, as Israel has demanded [darsha].

Jerusalem gave in that it no longer ties all the subjects together but agreed to have some sort of separation between them. Ambassador Moshe Sason discussed this matter 2 days ago with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. There was also an attempt to keep the contacts over this full secret.

Political sources told me last night that upon resuming the negotiations between us and the Egyptians, we have moved past the lowest point in bilateral relations, and now a new epoch will begin which will result in improved relations. [end recording]

SETTLEMENTS TO CONNECT WITH NATIONAL PIPELINE

TA191946 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The Israeli water company, Meqorot, will connect the settlements in Judaea and Samaria to the national water pipeline within 2 months, and will extend the Lake Tiberias-Bet She'an pipeline down to the Jordan Rift Valley.

OAU COMMITTEE MEETING OPENS IN NAIROBI 18 FEB

AB181225 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 18 (AFP) -- A meeting of the 12-nation Organization of African Unity (OAU) committee charged with trying to reconvene the twice-aborted 19th OAU summit opened here this afternoon with a call from the current chairman of the organization, President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, for a practical and realistic approach to the problems facing the pan-African body. "We cannot afford to lose," President Moi said, adding that a failure would lead to "further polarisation" within the organization.

The meeting, which opened at the Kenyatta Conference Center at 12.30 p.m., is being attended by Presidents Milton Obote of Uganda, Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo.

Other participants are Libya's "number two," Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Lesotho's Foreign Minister D.C. Malapo, Mali's Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye and Angolan External Trade Minister Ismael Martins. A delegation from Mozambique was expected this afternoon.

Mr Moi warned that "united we shall remain strong, divided we shall be destroyed," and appealed for a spirit of compromise and unselfishness among OAU member states. President Moi said the organization was facing a major crisis that required a concerted effort by all member states if it was to be solved. Prior to the meeting's official opening, the Kenyan president held informal consultations with the heads of delegations at their hotels last night and this morning.

The committee was set up last November after a second attempt to hold the 19th summit in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, failed following disagreement over the representation of the delegation from Chad. The summit failed to open in August as scheduled because of a boycott in protest against the persence of a delegation from the Saharan Democratic Republic (SDAR), whose admission to the OAU is disputed.

Summit Proposed for Addis Ababa

AB181620 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 18 (AFP) -- A 12-member special committee of the Organization of African Unity today recommended that the twice abandoned 19th summit of the organization be held "without preconditions" at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa next May or June. The brief communique ended a four-hour meeting here of the committee formed to try to resolve the crisis in the OAU after the two unsuccessful attempts to hold the 19th summit in Tripoli in August and November last year.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko said that the recommendation to switch the summit to Addis Ababa had been made "unanimously" by the seven heads of state and five ministers, and that all OAU members would be notified. Mr Ouko declined to say whether this implied that participation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR), whose admission to an OAU meeting a year ago because it had been recognized by a majority of states led to the collapse of the first Tripoli conference. That summit failed for lack of a quorum because a number of states led by Morocco -- which is fighting the SDAR's Polisario guerrillas over the Western Sahara -- stayed away in protest, depriving the meeting of a quorum. The SDAR agreed to stay away from the second summit -- which failed because of a row over the representation of Chad -- but has since said it would attend all future OAU meetings.

SDAR's Hakim Satisfied

AB181838 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Nairobi, Feb. 10 (AFP) -- Saharan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim today said he was "satisfied" with the recommendation of an Organisation of African Unity committee that the twice-abandoned 19th OAU summit meeting be reconvened in Addis Ababa "without preconditions." Mr Hakim said the committee had acted "to consolidate African unity and respect the OAU charter." It was now up to each OAU member state to respond positively to the recommendation.

The admission of Mr Hakim's Saharan Democratic Arab Republic -- whose Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco over the Western Sahara -- caused the collapse of the first attempt to hold the 19th summit in Tripoli last August. The SDAR voluntarily stayed away from the second conference, which collapsed in a dispute over the representation of Chad, but in a communique yesterday reaffirmed its intention to attend all future OAU meetings.

Moi: OAU Reactivation 'Vital'

AB181632 Lagos NAN in English 1624 GMT 18 Feb 83

[By Franklin Adesegha and James Bello]

[Excerpt] Nairobi, Feb 19 (NAN) — President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya today called for a practical and realistic approach to the problems facing the OAU. We cannot afford to lose. A failure will lead to further polarisation within the organization, President Moi declared while opening a meeting of the 12-nation contact committee which is trying to reconvene the 19th OAU summit.

President Moi, who is also the chairman of the OAU, said that the organization was facing a major crisis that required a concerted effort by all member-states to solve. He declared: It is absolutely vital that we reactivate the OAU. We should be guided by the fact that we cannot afford division within our realm. We should also remember that united we shall remain strong, and divided we shall be destroyed. President Moi said that South Africa had taken advantage of the present situation in the OAU to frustrate UN efforts in finding a lasting solution to the Namibian problem.

Correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reported that shortly after the chairmans address, newsmen were asked to leave the conference hall while the heads of state and delegates continued their deliberations behind closed-doors.

Meeting Ends

EA181736 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The mini-summit meeting of the OAU committee of 12 heads of state and government has ended at the Kenyatta International Conference Center. The meeting, which was chaired by the chairman of the organization, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, and attended by six heads of state and government and ministerial delegations, ended at about 1620.

All the delegations are now at State House, Nairobi, where President Moi has hosted a late luncheon in their honor.

ALGERIA

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS OPEC MEETING ON PRICES

LD211516 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Ben Hasi has just returned from the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries, where Minister Balkacem Nabi held a press conference this morning:

[Ben Hasi] Following Nigeria's unilateral decision to lower the price of its crude by $5.50, Algeria is demanding the convening of an extraordinary conference of the oil-producing countries on 25 February. Anxious about the organization's position, Algeria believes that the current situation on the oil market should lead to a meeting of the producer countries. Nigeria's decision remains an isolated initiative that will not call into question either the cohesion or the gains of OPEC. On the contrary, it encourages the producer countries to meet one another in order to reach a collective agreement on the price of crude in the face of the maneuvers of the oil companies, who would like to see a big drop in prices.

FOREIGN MINISTER OPPOSED TO U.S. NAVAL MANEUVERS

LD191511 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Taleb Ibrahimi held a press conference this morning for journalists attending the PNC meeting. He discussed major topical issues.

With regard to the recent American maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra, near Libyan territorial waters, Mr Taleb Ibrahimi said:

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] We must struggle to keep the Mediterranean a sea of peace [few words indistinct]. The American maneuvers carried out close to Libya are particularly (?linked) to (?other) maneuvers and very recent information. Mediterranean problems concern us deeply. We consider that security in the Mediterranean is linked with that in Europe (?and it raises the issue of) participation by Maghreb countries in all conferences on European security. It would be a good thing if Mediterranean countries could enter into consultation in order to prevent the presence of the two superpowers in a sea which we want to see as one of peace. The American maneuvers [several words indistinct] that Algeria is against these American maneuvers, whether linked with Morocco or with Egypt, as they are aimed at destabilizing the situation in the Mediterranean region. [end recording]

LIBYA

EGYPT PLAYED 'DANGEROUS GAME' WITH AWACS

LD211655 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The Egyptian regime's request for U.S. spy planes and their presence near the Egyptian-Libyan borders have aroused indignant reactions against that regime and have been a source of public dissatisfaction and concern. JANA political editor wrote an analysis on the presence of these planes in the region and the strategic objectives to which they were devoted. He said:

The president of the Egyptian regime played a dangerous game fraught with dire consequences when he allowed the U.S. spy planes near the Egyptian-Libyan borders. Husni Mubarak offered an illogical justification for giving permission to these planes; to be more precise his justification was ridiculous. That is he wanted to mock and ridicule the mentality of the Arab citizen when he claimed that these planes were requested for training of Egyptians.

Everyone knew the implication of dispatching these planes and the dangerous dimensions of their presence in Egypt; the foremost of which is that these spy planes carry out tasks exclusively connected with the U.S. scheme aimed at subjugating the Arab region to the U.S. [word indistinct] strategy. These planes will not provide any real service to any Arab regime, whatever the extent of its alliance with or ideal services to U.S. policy.

Husni Mubarak's justifications and pretext that the Egyptians would be trained on these planes are totally rejected, and no one could be fooled by them. The truth is that the main objective behind the request for these planes was to commit an aggressive act against Libya and not against the Israelis.

Hence, the truth emerges that the presence of the AWACS planes and the resumption of their spying activities constitute aggression against Libya and the Libyan people. Our people, well aware of the secrets of the game and its danger, will maintain the right to destroy these planes at any time they wish to do so, even if they are flying in Egyptian skies. These spy planes mainly serve the Pentagon's purposes and the U.S. and Israeli war machinery; merely by entering the region they create a situation of tension that will lead to the brink of war in the U.S. fashion.

The excuse that their presence in the region was to collect information for the Egyptian or Sudanese regimes is deceitful and [word indistinct] excuses. The only information that Egypt or Numayri's lackey regime could be provided with would be nothing but mystifying information and false communiques which are given to the region's governments, which seek their help, with the aim of creating a state of panic and tension and with the purpose of putting these governments and regimes in a state of heightened [word indistinct] and war. This was the case in the past 2 days, when these planes flew and provided the Egyptian and Numayri's lackey regimes with false information in the course of a psychological campaign, making them believe that there was a possibility of an armed clash taking place.

On the basis of all the firm evidence and facts, the AWACS planes will provide absolutely no facts to the Arab nation. If this were the case, these planes would have provided Saudi Arabia with the correct information which it should have provided for it, when they were stationed in its territories, when the Zionist Air Force crossed Saudi air space and struck against the Iraqi nuclear reactor. This is a fact beyond any doubt, and if the Egyptian regimes choose to ignore it and hang on to playing with the U.S. AWACS it will only harm itself, because it will be constantly playing with fire. It must be well aware and bear the consequences and complications that will result from this dangerous game.

UN DELEGATE'S MESSAGE ON 'GRAVE SITUATION'

LD201038 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] New York, 20 Feb (JANA) -- Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Jamahiriyan permanent delegate to the United Nations, yesterday sent a message to the chairman of the Security Council. Here is the text of the message:

I would like to draw your attention to the grave situation resulting from American military threats and provocations directed against the Jamahiriyah which aim at creating a situation likely to threaten security and peace in the region.

America, by dispatching AWACS aircraft to one of the countries close to Jamahiriyah and by moving the aircraft carrier Nimitz and some other naval units close to Libyan shores, represent a clear provocation to international principles of law and behavior.

These unjustifiable actions and hostile statements by American officials and the intense propaganda campaign which accompanied them confirm the harbored hostile intentions of the American Administration toward the Jamahiriyah.

As I inform you of this I assure you of the Jamahiriyah's striving for peace and security in the region and charge America with responsibility for what might happen as a result of its aforementioned actions.

The continuing flights of American episonage and jamming aircraft over our borders has led to a grave situation and to the obstruction of civilian communications within the Jamahiriyah. Moreover, the presence of the U.S. 6th Fleet close to our shores could lead to the creation of a grave situation not only likely to threaten peace in the region but also to threaten international peace and security, a matter for which America holds full responsibility.

The Jamahiriyah stresses that no tension exists in the region to justify this American provocation, and that the Jamahiriyah had and has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any neighboring or remote country, that it cares for the maintenance of peace and security in the region, and that our concern, as a small country, is to develop our country and its stability.

At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the members of the UN Security Council to the gravity of these provocations by one of the member states of the council, and we reserve our right to summon the council to convene if these American provocations continue or increase. We also reserve our right to defend ourselves and to adopt the necessary measures to maintain our freedom, the security of our territory, and the inviolability of our air space and territorial waters.

At the end of delivering his message the permanent delegate asked the chairman of the Security Council to distribute it as a Security Council document.

JANA REPORTS EGYPTIAN FORCES ENTER SUDAN

LD210939 Tripoli JANA in English 0800 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 9, Feb 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Egyptian forces that were stationed on the Sudanese border entered in the Sudan and reached Wadi Sayyidna in a bid to terrorise the Sudanese people.

Some local politicians say there are intentions of forcefully annexing Sudan to Egypt, or removing hireling Numayri, through the common consent of Egypt and the U.S., after his failure to carry out his designated role... [ellipsis as received]

JANA CITES REUTER ON ABU GHAZALA DENIAL

LD210822 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (JANA) -- The REUTER NEWS AGENCY has reported that the Egyptian defense minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazala has denied the existence of Libyan military concentrations near the Sudanese borders, and after a meeting with American Assistant Secretary of Defense Francis West, said that there were no indications of a conflict on the Libyan-Sudanese borders.

TRIPOLI NOTES EGYPTIAN DENIAL ON U.S. MOVEMENTS

NC201056 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] In a newscast yesterday evening, Cairo radio, quoting informed Egyptian sources, said there is no truth in what has been said that Egypt asked the United States to conduct military movements in the Mediterranean or elsewhere.

These sources said that Egypt is not a party to the strategy of any foreign state, and that it has nothing to do with the military movements carried out by the United States or any other country.

NATIONAL EGYPTIAN FRONT SENDS SUPPORTIVE CABLE

LD191442 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The National Egyptian Front has sent a cable to the brother commander of the revolution expressing its utmost appreciation for the decision made by the General People's Congress to continue working to bolster the alliance with the National Egyptian Front within the framework of the Libyan Arab people's resolve to support the cause of freedom and the Arab liberation movements.

In its cable, the National Egyptian Front expressed its support for the Libyan Arab people against the American and reactionary threats and provocation and against any aggressive attempt directed against Libyan Arab land or its territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra.

The United States which is drunk with the arrogance of power, which wants to install itself as a god on this earth, and which is lured by the instigations of its agents in the Sudanese and Egyptian regimes -- this United States must know that free and faithful peoples do not succumb to threats. Any attempt by the United States to commit aggression will result in a explosion of fire in its face on the sea and land. The heroic Libyan Arab people, the grandsons of 'Umar al-Mukhtar, are not alone in the face of the aggression.

JANA EDITOR REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

LD200927 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) -- A prominent Palestinian official has stated that the Palestinian revolution is prepared to normalize its relations with Libya providing the latter stopped interfering in the affairs of the Palestinian revolution and influencing independent Palestinian decisions.

The political editor of JANA described the statement made by Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, official spokesman of the PNC, as a farce which casts doubt on the revolutionary relations of cohesion which the Jamahiriyah has adopted toward the Palestinian revolution -- a cohesion bent on backing the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian rifle for the liberation of occupied Palestine from the Zionist invaders -- since the start of the Great Fat'h Revolution of September 1969.

JANA's political editor was astonished by this accusation made by a prominent Palestinian official stating that the Jamahiriyah is an enemy of the Palestinian revolution, and that the condition of noninterference in the affairs of the Palestinian revolution has to be enforced in order to normalize relations.

This official has forgotten, or pretends to forget, that the Jamahiriyah and the Great Fatah Revolution consider themselves to be in one trench with the Palestinian revolutionaries in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy, liberation of their land, establishment of their independent state on their own territory; that they are the only voice which called for pan-Arabism of the battle with the enemy and pan-Arabism of the Fida'i action; that is is the only state which rejected the process of withdrawing the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon who have now been dispersed as a result of the rejection of the Jamahiriyah's call and who are thus distanced from their proper position, that of facing the enemy.

Reality was embodied by the unlimited backing given by the Jamahiriyah to the Palestinian revolution in the battle of Beirut. Moreover, all potential for the Palestinian revolution is from the Jamahiriyah which has declared that militarily it is in the same trench with the Palestinian revolution in all arenas.

This posture of the Jamahiriyah has made it the target for imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction; all its disputes with others are due to its principled posture with the Palestinian revolution, namely to achieve the aims of the Palestinian Arab people to liberate, and return to, their land.

All idiotic talk about the posture of the Jamahiriyah toward the Palestinian revolution will not affect the backing and the support of the Jamahiriyah for the rifle which is aimed at the enemy and against the Zionist train of death attempting to crush and eliminate the Arab nation.

JANA COMMENTATOR REPLIES TO KHALAF'S ATTACK

NC211302 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Salah Khalaf [Fatah Central Committee member, alias Abu Iyad] has been engaging in open lies against the Jamahiriyah and its people. In statements he has made in a number of Arab countries, the last of which was in Algeria, Salah Khalaf attacked the people of the Jamahiriyah in a desperate attempt to harm the principled and resolute stand adopted by the Libyan Arab people on the Palestinian cause. By doing so, Salah Khalaf has confirmed that he has joined the camp that is hostile to the Arab nation and the Arab revolution -- the American camp.

The JANA political editor, commenting on the cheap attacks made by the so-called Abu Iyad, said: Salah Khalaf, who is fallaciously nicknamed Abu Iyad, finally unveiled his real identity when he openly declared his joining the camp of the enemies of the Arab nation and the Arab revolution -- the United States. He appeared in his true image by attacking the people of the Jamahiriyah at a time when the American 6th Fleet is provoking and terrorizing the revolutionary people of the Jamahiriyah.

This Abu Iyad is actually Yitzhaq Khlafu, who has been planted by Zionism in the PLO to destroy it from within and divert it from its real objectives. He concealed himself for many years in a cloak of oneupmanship and by claiming to be a fanatic patriot until he advanced in rank and occupied a leading position in the PLO -- just as was the case of Zionist Eli Kohen, who was planted by Zionism in an Arab country and given the name Amin Thabit. Kohen pretended to be a staunch Arab, more staunch than the Arabs themselves. He advanced in rank and occupied a leading position in that country and came to learn all its military and political secrets. Amin Thabit, rather Eli Kohen, was uncovered and beheaded. However, the other Thabit, rather Yitzhaq Khlafu -- the so-called Abu Iyad -- has unmasked himself in Algeria, disclosing his real identity. He fled from Beirut as a coward and left the defenseless women, children, and old people in Sabra and Shatila open to murder, slaughter, and rape.

We tell this [word indistinct] mercenary that the Libyan people are bigger than him and his ilk. The Libyan people fought Italian colonialism for scores of years and Libya sacrificed two-thirds of its population for freedom. The Libyan people understand freedom, because they fought for it and are now practicing freedom over their land and supporting those struggling for freedom everywhere.

This Abu Iyad is aware of the sources of the weapons which he surrendered to the Israelis -- heavy weapons which could equip not one army but several armies. The Libyan people gave the Palestinian resistance in Beirut and outside Beirut all that it requested and even more. All that Abu Iyad did was surrender those weapons to his brother Zionists.

We called for steadfastness and defiance of death till martyrdom in the defense of Beirut, but Yitzhaq Khlafu and his cowardly and hesitant ilk did not have the honor for martyrdom. He was too small to be a martyr in the procession of martyrs Beirut has embraced -- a procession that immortalizes the struggle, inspires the generations, fans the fire of the blessed fury, and fulfills the hope of the nation.

Now that it has been peddled in the slave and auction markets, the Palestinian cause is no longer the Arabs' central issue. The central issue now is the Arab existence itself, which contradicts and conflicts with the Zionist existence. The train of death has not stopped in Palestine nor will it stop in Beirut. It is continuing its way to Mecca and Medina so as to cross the Arab homeland from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arabian] Gulf.

The Arab people in Libya have the honor of being the first to sound the alarm to waken and stir the Arabs to confront this train. The Libyan people are mobilizing their capabilities to halt this train by force. As for those who have been repeating their fossilized and dead words, fabricating justifications, and weeping and wailing in their quest of what they call peace, recognition of the enemy and submission to the might of Zionism and licking the boots of reaction and begging the United States to smile upon them -- all of them are the traitorous, submissive, and dead clique which has no place in the dictionary of action and manhood. The place for them is that of traitor Nuri as-Sa'id, King 'Abdallah, and the As-Sadat of the [Camp David] stable.

The attacks of Yitzhaq Khlafu are too meager and base to deserve our attention, but what he wishes to do was take the lid off. Until the Arabs realize that criteria and controls must be observed when talking about the Palestinian cause and unless that leadership [of the PLO] changes, it will be impossible to find criteria for actual work with the Palestinians. The Arabs, in all their inclinations, have failed to offer actual work for the Palestinian cause because of the futility, lack of clarity, mercurialness, and lack of freedom of the Palestinian leadership, which has not succeeded in anything other than pretentiousness, appearances, and boastful attire that conceals soft (?hearts). Were we to ask how many wounds have afflicted these soft bodies and hands, the answer would be-none, despite the fact that the number of those who were killed in Lebanon exceeded 50,000 young men and children, and women.

ARMED FORCES WARN AGAINST TERRITORIAL VIOLATIONS

LD191008 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0903 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA) -- The Libyan Arab Armed Forces have declared that they will not permit any forces or targets [ahdaf] of any kind no matter who stands behind them, even if it is the leader of world terrorism -- the United States -- to violate our air, territorial waters, or land. We will turn the Gulf [of Sidra], which we consider to be a part of our territory, into fire and blood against any aggressor and we will implement the resolutions of our people, our revolution, and our commander.

In a statement announced over the television network last night, the Libyan Arab Armed Forces explained the violations committed by the American forces in the Jamahiriyah skies and territorial waters. The statement declared that we have not threatened the security of Sudan nor did we amass troops on its borders. We do not possess planes that can reach deep into the Sudan so that we may strike there as the American President claims.

The statement added that the armed forces consider all this a mere pretext intended to intimidate us, terrorize us, and bring us to our knees. The American President knows that we have no intention of carrying out an aggression against anyone, be it Egypt, Sudan, or Chad.

The statement pointed out that the supreme commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces had previously said something to this effect. He said: "We declare to all those interested that we will carry out the will of our people and we will die in defense of our land and our revolution."

The statement added that the American Administration has sent the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz and its escort ships to take up positions opposite Libyan shores on the pretext of protecting the Sudanese regime.

The statement went on to say that on 13 February 1983 the American fleet began to approach Libyan shores. The aircraft carrier arrived opposite the Gulf of Sidra just outside the latitude 32 degrees and 32 minutes -- the line of Jamahiriyah territorial waters.

On 16 February 1983, an aircraft violated our territorial waters and approached Banghazi to a distance of 80 kilometers. But our Air Forces intercepted it and forced it to flee.

On 17 February 1983, some American naval fleet vessels approached the boundary of our territorial waters at a distance of 22 kilometers from the latitude 32 degrees and 30 minutes. Our naval forces watched them closely.

The statement pointed out that the American early warning aircrafts -- the AWACS -- have actually arrived in Egypt and began their provocative and aggressive operations along the Egyptian-Libyan border in the area extending from (Jabal al-Uwaynat) mountain to the (Siwah) oasis along the border line. Libyan Arab Air Forces have taken all the necessary measures to meet any eventuality.

AL-QADHDHAFI U.S. TV INTERVIEW REPORTED

LD190740 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0712 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA) -- The commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has affirmed in an interview with the American television stations ABC and CBS yesterday that relations between Libya and Egypt improved greatly after As-Sadat's death and there was a relaxation in these relations which began to develop gradually and the state of war ended for good with the departure of As-Sadat.

The brother commander affirmed saying we in Libya were looking for an improvement of relations with the Government of Sudan. But the United States was responsible for the creation of this tense situation to justify the launching of an aggression and restoring the region to a state of war and instability.

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST U.S. PRESENCE REPORTED

LD211527 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 9, Feb 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Thousands of demonstrators from all over the Libyan cities and villages carried placard calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. fleet from the Mediterranean and the "AWACS" from Egypt as well as the massing of troops from the Libyan-Egyptian and Libyan-Sudanese borders. The demonstrators said in their statement that the regimes of Mubarak and Numayri, by massing their troops along the Libyan borders, are in actual fact carrying out the U.S. designs on the Jamahiriyah.

U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF 6TH FLEET, AWACS REPORTED

LD201802 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) -- The U.S. 6th Fleet has withdrawn from the area where it was anchoring off the Libyan shore and has sailed into the Mediterranean due east.

The U.S. Administration has announced that it has withdrawn the AWACS aircraft at the request of the Egyptian regime, which considered the presence of these aircraft as a cause of the escalation of internal problems and as constituting a source of American provocation toward the Jamahiriyah. Moreover, the presence of these aircraft has created violent wrath and protests.

SUDAN

MINISTER ON LIBYAN CONCENTRATIONS, PLOTS

JN201520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA) -- Libya continues to mass military fighters and bombers of the TU-22 and MIG-23 type near Al-Kufrah on the Libyan-Sudanese border and in the Chadian regions of Ouzou and Largeua which the Libyan regime usurped.

This was announced by National Guidance and Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq here today. The minister also said that the authorities have arrested a number of infiltrators into Sudanese territory.

The minister added that in addition to its concentrations, through its embassy in Nairobi, and through the cooperation of a so-called revolutionary who visited Libya, Libya has tried several times to shake the security and stability of southern Sudan.

At a press conference here today, Dr Abu Saq said the Libyan plan aimed at carrying out operations to blow up [words indistinct] vital utilities to be accompanied by Libyan air support from the concentrations near the common border and from the regions in northern Chad which are occupied by Libya.

Dr Abu Saq announced that a number of those who call themselves the popular front [al-jabhah ash-sha'biyah] and who claim to represent certain factions of the people have in the past few weeks arrived in Libya. They included Abu Hasabu, Ahmad Zayn, and Dandash.

Dr Abu Saq also said that Goukouni Oueddei, who placed himself at the service of the Libyan plan, is clearing the way for the Libyan regime's intervention in Chad, Sudan, and other African states. He added that the Libyan regime's hold on Goukouni Oueddei is tightening every day and has reached the extent that Oueddei's so-called cabinet includes two Libyans: the commander of Sabha as defense minister and the minister of security.

Dr Abu Saq said that Sudan -- the army and the people -- stands united to face and crush any attack and to foil any plan to shake its security and stability. He added that Sudan is a solid rock on which all the dreams and delusions of the invaders and conspirators will be wrecked.

SECURITY, DEFENSE STATEMENT ON LIBYAN PLOT

JN211540 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA) -- Major General Babakir 'Abd ar-Rahim, chairman of the National Security and Defense Committee, read a statement issued by his committee to the People's Assembly this morning. The statement said that the Libyan concentrations in the Al-Kufrah region, near the Sudanese border, indicate that the Libyan colonel is plotting again against our country as a continuation of the abortive conspiracies he carried out in 1976.

He added that examples of Al-Qadhdhafi conspiracies are seen in incidents of the Chadian Embassy and of the petroleum depot in Ash-Shajarah, south of Khartoum. He said that the incident at Aryath in the southern region is another link in the chain of incidents. He noted that our security organs are watching all the colonel's moves. He said that as Sudan announces the discovery of a new link in Al-Qadhdhafi's chain of conspiracies, it would like to draw the attention of the world, the OAU, and the United Nations to the conspiracies aimed against neighboring countries, particularly Sudan. The statement also said that the Sudanese people and armed forces are capable of defending every inch of its territory, sea, and air and that Sudan will be a graveyard for the invaders and will lie in wait for them wherever they go or settle.

Assembly Statement on Plot

JN211902 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA) -- The People's Assembly today unanimously approved a draft resolution which reiterated the call on the United Nations to end these Libyan threats and provocations and the consequences of this aggressive Libyan act against Sudan which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions that affirm the territorial integrity and unity of UN member-states.

The Assembly praised the boldness, competence, and efficiency of the security organs and the people's Armed Forces in confronting the continuous conspiracies of the Libyan colonel against Sudan, his threats to invade it, provocations against its people and leadership, and his attempt to undermine its security and stability. The assembly called on all the struggling proud Sudanese people to show more caution and alertness to confront the conspiracy and its dimensions aimed against the unity of the people and the homeland. It also affirmed the responsibility of our people and homeland through hard work and the sweat and the blood of our martyrs.

The draft resolution which contained these points was submitted by Muhammad Kamal Hamadtu, chairman of the Assembly's Foreign Policy Committee, following the statement presented by Major General Babakir 'Abd ar-Rahim, chairman of the National Security and Defense Committee, regarding Libyan concentrations along the Sudanese border before the Assembly this morning.

OFFICIAL DENIES COUP ATTEMPT REPORTS

NC211308 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (MENA) -- An official spokesman of the Sudanese Information Ministry today denied reports that a coup attempt in Sudan has been foiled, saying that there was no such attempt.

In a statement made to MENA correspondent in Khartoum, the Sudanese spokesman described these reports as untrue and part of the campaign which hostile agents abroad are waging against Sudan. In his statement, the Sudanese spokesman said that all that has happened in the past few days is that the Sudanese security authorities have arrested some persons belonging to the so-called revolutionary committees, who had sneaked across the borders bringing with them weapons and explosives after receiving training in Libya. The spokesman pointed out that these saboteurs had sneaked into the country at a time when Libya amassed military concentrations on the border in the area of (Al-Kafrah) consisting of MIG-23 and TU-22 military aircraft in addition to mechanical equipment in an attempt to threaten the security and stability in Sudan. In his statement, the official spokesman of the Sudanese Information Ministry emphasized that in cooperation with one of the advocates of the revolution, who visited Libya several times, Libya is trying through its embassy in Nairobi to shake the security and stability inside the southern region [of Sudan].

In conclusion, the spokesman asserted that the Libyan concentrations are still along the border. He said that the Suadanese forces are watching them and are prepared to crush any attempt against Sudan's security.

NUMAYRI DISSOLVES KHARTOUM PARTY CONFERENCE

EA201744 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Leader-President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the SSU, has issued Decree No 256 (?relating to) the fourth session with regard to the cancellation of the SSU Khartoum area conference.

Here is the text of the decree:

In accordance with Article 14 of the SSU Constitution it is decreed that:

A. The Khartoum area conference of the SSU is cancelled and all its resolutions and measures revoked, in particular, its election of an area secretary and committee.

B. The SSU secretary for Khartoum Province will implement this decree and take any necessary steps to restructure SSU organs, as provided for in this decree.

C. The following are to be dismissed from membership of the SSU: 'Abd al-Qayyum Fath ar-Rahman, Qasim Muhammad al-Bashira, Zuhayri Harun, and Hamid Hasan Salman.

Issued under my signature, at SSU headquarters, Saturday, 19 February 1983.

Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the SSU

CAIRO RADIO REPORTS MUBARAK ARRIVAL IN KHARTOUM

NC220948 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived at Khartoum Airport at around 1000 today, where he was met by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, first vice president Lieutenant General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Vice President Joseph Lagu, and by their excellencies the speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly and the members of the Supreme Council for Integration. The president was also met by leading statesmen, members of the diplomatic and political corps [as heard], and popular and executive leaderships in Sudan.

Following a tumultuous popular and official welcome, the president -- accompanied by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri -- rode in a convertible to the Armed Forces Officers' Club, where the first meeting of the Egyptian-Sudanese Supreme Council for Integration began.

GENERAL WALTERS TALKS WITH AT-TAYYIB

EA181541 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Major General 'Uman Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic and head of the state security organ, this evening received General Walters, envoy of American President Reagan and his companions. He arrived in the country today. SUNA learned that during the meeting world and regional problems were discussed. Views were also exchanged on matters of common interest.

Gen Walters stressed U.S. support for Sudan and solidarity with it in all circumstances. He also stressed that Sudan is playing a major and prominent role in the establishment of peace, stability, and security in the region.

Gen Walters expressed wishes for Sudan's progress and prosperity under the leadership of the leader-president Numayri.

After the conclusion of his visit, the American President's envoy will leave for Nairobi as part of a tour that includes Somalia and Morocco.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES SUDANESE DIPLOMATS

JN201618 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has said that the sense of imminent collapse and despondency afflicting the revolution's enemies, who are conspiring against the homeland's soil and strong structure, will continue to characterize those who ride on the enemies' bandwagon. Speaking at the opening session of the fourth conference of Sudanese ambassadors and diplomats here this morning, the president said: Our people's determination will not weaken and our revolution will not turn backward. We will, forever, uphold our commitment, faith, and loyalty to the homeland and its people and will face the challenges no matter how great they are.

President Numayri said: When we speak about foreign policy, we are speaking on solid ground, without pitfalls and abysses. The charter has set forth the basic principles of that policy and the SSU national congresses have often confirmed our adherence to these principles.

President Numayri said: Our foreign policy has proved its ability to maintain continuity and anticipate events. As a matter of fact, we have had the honor of making initiatives in many events, proceeding from those basic principles which have proved their validity and have enabled Sudan to adopt sound decisions on the issues facing the Arab nation and the African Continent as well as international developments.

Addressing the conferees, the president said: Your performance must project Sudan's real face and revolution. As you know, Sudan is facing a handful of people who regrettably belong to a small group which claims to be opposed to the status quo. This group is lusting for the glitter of gold which is in the possession of those who begrudge the homeland's progress under the leadership of its revolution. This small group was known here in Sudan for capitalizing and outbidding for personal gains at the expense of the achievements of the entire homeland. And, it was known abroad for plotting even at the expense of the honor and dignity for which the Sudanese people are known. These weaklings have become the source of false rumors about Sudan abroad.

President Numayri said: Your main task is to acquaint the Sudanese abroad about the true conditions in their country. Since the relationship between the government and the people in revolutionary Sudan is based on maintaining continuous and direct contact with the affairs of the citizens, this should also be reflected in the ambassadors' relationship with the Sudanese people abroad. It should be a relationship based on mutual confidence between you and them, a relationship also based on frank and direct dialogue between you and them. Such a relationship will insure the revolution's concern for the welfare of all Sudanese wherever they may be. There should be no barrier between the citizens and the government.

CHAD

GUNT CONDEMNS U.S. ACTION AGAINST LIBYA

AB212033 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The U.S. authorities have embarked on provocative maneuvers against the Libyan people. According to international news agencies, a U.S. nuclear-driven aircraft carrier has arrived in the Gulf of Sidra where the United States, Sudan, and Egypt are engaged in joint military maneuvers. Four U.S. AWACS have been dispatched to Khartoum in order to monitor -- as they put it -- the movements of the Libyan troops stationed on the Sudanese western border.

According to well-informed observers, these (?maneuvers) are aimed at diverting the attention of public opinion from the serious economic and political crisis which Sudan and the United States are going through. As we are speaking to you now, Sudan is a virtually occupied country. There are more than 6,000 Egyptian soldiers on the Sudanese territory charged with repressing the Sudanese people whose discontent is growing greater and greater. There is no doubt that the Libyan troops referred to in the Western media are just the Chadians of the National Liberation Army. [Words indistinct] of the Libyan people, militant Africans have not remained indifferent to the situation. In this connection, the progressive countries and the liberation movements have pledged their indefectible support to the Libyan people. The Chadian people -- through the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] -- have just voiced their support in the following communique:

Communique from the Presidency of the GUNT: For the past few days, a great imperialist-Zionist threat has been hanging over the Libyan people and their leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. As a matter of fact, a U.S. nuclear-driven aircraft carrier is now in the waters of the Gulf of Sidra, which is an integral part of the Libyan territory. The carrier is there within the framework of Sudan-Egypt joint military maneuvers. This is a gross violation of international law and a threat to the peace and security of the Jamahiriyah.

After attempting to liquidate the Palestinian resistence in the Middle East, U.S. imperialism and its Zionist allies now want to stab the Libyan revolutionary people in the back in order to create a new hotbed of permanent tension. This coincides surprisingly with the bellicose declarations of Hissein Habre, the rebel, during his recent visit to Khartoum. No doubt that this is a vast conspiracy designed to destabilize the Jamahiriyah and Chad.

In view of that threat hanging over the Libyan and the Chadian peoples, the GUNT reiterates its support to the brotherly Libyan people and their leader, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Issued at Bardai on 19 February 1983.

HABRE, U.S. DISCUSS POSSIBLE AMERICAN BASE

AB220937 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] While in Khartoum, Hissein Habre secretly met with the leader of the special White House mission. (?They discussed) the possibility of establishing an American base in Chad and of sending intervention troops. [Passage indistinct]. Radio Bardai appeals to all (?cadres) and officials -- in short to all those who constitute the national annihilation forces to think twice, we repeat twice -- before involving themselves in this hopeless military adventure.

Habre-Walters Meeting

AB212206 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] After Hissein Habre and his clique toured central and west Africa seeking the legitimacy which they do not enjoy internally, they now turn to the Arab countries. In this connection, Hissein Habre led an important delegation to Sudan last week.

In the Sudanese capital, the delegation of the forces of national annihilation held a secret meeting with General Vernon Walters, the leader of a special mission of the White House, which arrived in Khartoum a few hours (?later) as if by chance. Hissein Habre examined with Walters the issue of military advisers from the United States, Israel, and Morocco for the military airbase in Ndjamena.

The delegation led by the Ndjamena dictator made the visit to Sudan to thank the authorities of that country who helped him in his destructive work. With regard to the objectives of the Lagos accords, Sudan and Egypt have always played the major roles in the rebellion led by [word indistinct] Habre. He has always received weapons from the United States through those two countries.

While Hissein Habre and his clique were in Sudan, [words indistinct]. In fact, a U.S. Transall aircraft from Zaire carrying arms and ammunition landed in Ndjamena causing general panic among the civil and military population. [Passage indistinct]. They feared it was an air attack launched by the fighters of the National Liberation Army. They are everywhere in the various towns and will intervene at the appropriate time and according to the instructions which they will receive. This is why Hissein Habre has called in U.S., Israeli, and Moroccan military advisers quartered at the air base, the access to which is strictly prohibited. The advisers refrain from venturing into the city for fear they might be lynched by the hostile population.

This is not the first (?such situation) in Chad. In 1975 the late President Tombalbaye had military advisers. But their presence did not prevent the progress of revolutionary movement nor the overthrow of Tombalbaye in a military coup d'etat. With regard to the Americans, they have never won a war against a people in rebellion. [passage indistinct]. The last American left Hanoi [as heard] in a helicopter flying off the roof of the U.S. Embassy. And very recently [words indistinct] to embark upon a new military adventure in Chad.

BARDAI RADIO ON GUNT MILITARY ACTIVITIES

AB182128 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 18 Feb 83

["Very important communique" from minister of information, spokesman of Transitional National Union Government -- name not given]

[Text] On the eve of the summit of the 12-nation OAU ad hoc committee in Nairobi, Hissein Habre, the rebel, and his allies have embarked on diversionary maneuvers, aimed solely at diverting the attention of worldpublic opinion from the serious difficulties which he is facing both inside and outside the country. According to foreign media, Libya has reportedly massed troops and military equipment along Chad's northern border with the intent of invading the country.

We remind international public opinion that Libya once intervened in Chad at the request of its legal government, the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], formed in the wake of the Lagos accords.

(?Following a decision) which was a matter of national sovereignty, the GUNT requested and obtained the withdrawal of Libyan troops. The last Libyan solider left Chadian soil in November 1981.

Since the Bardai declaration, the National Liberation Army [ALN] is ready to (?cross the) national territory in order to (?crush) Hissein Habre's forces. In this regard, during the night of 5 to 6 January 1983, an ALN commando unit successfully destroyed at Sarha a depot of arms and ammunition of all kinds and make and killed all elements on guard duty. In October 1982, an American C-130 aircraft carrying arms and ammunition was shot down 25 km away from Mongo, a small town in the center of the country. In the meantime and in the same region, ALN fighters seized the town of (?Masa). In the second half of December 1982, GUNT troops (?launched) an attack against the forces of Hissein Habre which left behind over 120 dead and an impressive quantity of military equipment of American and Israeli origin and several (?vehicles).

We (?would not like) to comment on [word indistinct] the international media described as objective. We would like to (?tell) such media, in the pay of imperialism, that (?the GUNT) reaffirms its determination to carry on the struggle until final victory over the rebel forces (?of Hissein Habre).

BARDAI: RETURNEES SENT TO FRONT: OTHERS EXECUTED

AB182154 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1810 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] [Passage indistinct] concerning the returnees from Nigeria, here is the summary of the declarations made by eyewitnesses who experienced the situation. According to an interpreter who has just joined us, Hissein Habre's soldiers led the returnees straight to the police station. After a few hours of basic lessons on the use of weapons, some men were sent to the front; others were kept in detention or executed.

In this regard, since the return of the deportees to Ndjamena, several (?hundred) corpses have been found [words indistinct]. The Cameroonian authorities, who were alerted, (?sent men) to the spot to discover Hissein Habre's barbaric acts. [Words indistinct], the Cameroonian authorities are aware of the serious situation in Ndjamena.

The Voice of Liberation extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved families of those who have (?been killed).

AFP: CAPITAL PROSPERS; REST OF NATION SUFFERS

AB211328 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 21 Feb 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, Feb. 21 (AFP) -- As cases of famine are reported from different parts of Chad, the capital Ndjamena continues to enjoy an economic boom, thanks to international aid. For more than two years the city's 300,000 inhabitants have been benefitting from substantial inducements designed to persuade exiles from the civil wars to return. The latest batch are 13,000 supporters of President Hissene Habre who came back from Nigeria and Cameroon after Mr Habre's assumption of power last June, and at the request of the authorities here are being maintained for six months by the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

Mr Habre's arrival has also given a vital boost to the capital's economy, in that government employees have been given half their salaries for the past four months. Under the previous regime of Goukouni Oueddei they only collect five months' pay in two years.

With this increase in buying power Ndjamena's markets are thriving, money in circulating normally and a host of small businesses have sprung up. Only the absence of a banking network has prevented a more consequential economic expansion. But none of the four banks here before the civil war want to reopen, as they refuse to absorb 50 million dollars in liabilities and 15 million dollars in interest.

Contrastingly, the financial health of the state is far fom the level enjoyed by its capital. The current budget of more than 100 million dollars can count on receipts of less than 25 million, from taxes on the few firms still operating in the relatively prosperous south. In 1977 these taxes represented 49 percent of state revenue, in 1978 and 1979 no budget was drawn up because of the civil war, and the 1980 and 1981 budgets of the Goukouni administration were not respected.

Chadian authorities stress that they have received no hard currency aid, but diplomats and representatives of international bodies estimate that a number of states, notably the United States, France and Saudi Arabia, are bailing the country out of the tune of a million dollars a month.

The major problem remains the payment of salaries to the 16,000 civil servants, which in 1977 represented 65 percent of state expenditure. Many government employees are also reluctant to leave their homes in the south and come to work in Ndjamena. The situation in the schools illustrates the problem: In the absence of qualified teachers 4,000 just graduated senior students are taking classes, but they cannot go on to university for more than two years because there are not enough staff there either.

RADIO BARDAI: OAU MEETING CONDEMNS HABRE

AB212042 Bardai Chadian National (Anti-Habre) in 1820 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The OAU has not closed its door to the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT]. The 12-member ad hoc committee has just ended its summit in Nairobi, Kenya, after unanimously adopting a resolution calling on the member countries of the OAU to attend its 20th summit, scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in May or June.

The GUNT, headed by Goukouni Oueddei, will (?not shirk) its responsibility. It will represent Chadians at this meeting in conformity with the resolutions of the 18th and the 19th OAU summits in Nairobi and Triopoli respectively. At both summits, the majority of the countries in attendance upheld the legitimacy of the GUNT and adopted among other resolutions one on Chad saying , "we pledge our support for the Lagos accords calling for a new reconciliation in Chad and (?thus) condemning the [words indistinct]. "One must read between the lines" The resolution unreservedly condemns Hissein Habre's forces of national annihilation.

GHANA

ACCRA REPORTS IVORY COAST EXPELLING GHANAIANS

AB212013 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Ghanaians resident in another African country are in trouble again, this time in the Ivory Coast. According to the officer in charge of the border guards in the western region, Captain Damale, about 300 Ghanaians, mostly fishermen resident in the Ivory Coast, have fled to Ghana since the 6th of this month.

Another batch of about 30 are expected back later. Addressing a meeting of the Regional Committee for the Evacuation and Mobilization of Ghanaian Returnees From Nigeria, Captain Damale said the third batch of 20 Ghanaians were allegedly arrested by the Ivorian authorities at market places and deported through the half Assini border. He said others were forced to flee from their fishing villages in the Ivory Coast when seven of their colleagues were arrested by the Ivorian gendarmery after on suspicion of having murdered an Ivorian in one of the villages.

Meanwhile, the Western Regional Rehabilitation Committee has taken delivery of a quantity of relief items from the Ghana Red Cross Society. The regional secretary, Appiah, asked members of the committee to keep accurate records of all the relief supplies coming to the region. He also directed that some of the items will be used to cater for the needs of those Ghanaians returning from the Ivory Coast and in transit in the city.

LIBERIA

GOVERNMENT BANS TRAVEL TO, FROM SIERRA LEONE

AB220807 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Monrovia, Feb. 22 (AFP) -- Liberia has banned air, land and sea travel to and from neighbouring Sierra Leone with immediate effect in protest at an article in a Freetown newspaper, National Radio reported today in a special bulletin.

The radio said the Liberian miltiary authorities took the decision late last night in a special council meeting following the publication of an article in the progress alleging that Liberian head of state Samuel Doe shot and killed his wife Nancy for her involvement in a plot to poison Mr Doe and overthrow the government.

Further details were promised in later bulletins.

Troops Sent to Border

AB221147 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Monrovia, Feb. 22 (AFP) -- Liberia has banned air, land and sea travel to and from neighbouring Sierra Leone and ordered 2,000 troops to the border with immediate effect in protest at an article in a Freetown newspaper, National Radio announced today in a special bulletin. A communique from State House said the ban sould stay in force until the government of Sierra Leone makes clear its position "in a satisfactory manner" to the Government of Liberia or identifies the sources of the article. The communique quoted Mr Doe as saying that he had every reason to believe that the article was designed to undermine efforts his government was making toward economic recovery.

Liberia's ambassador to Sierra Leone has been recalled for immediate consultations and Mr Doe has ordered the defense minister, the chief of staff and the local commanding general to deploy 2,000 troops along the border, the communique said.

Mr Doe also noted that despite alleged acquisition of Liberian territory by Sierra Leone in colonial times Monrovia and Freetown had remained on friendly terms.

Border Closed, Troops Deployed

AB221223 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Government of Liberia has announced the closure of its borders with the Republic of Sierra Leone by land, sea, and air effective immediately. This decision was taken at a joint meeting of the ruling people's Redemption Council [PRC] and the Cabinet at a midnight session last night at the Executive Mansion.

The head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, in consulation with the council, has meanwhile ordered the minister of national defense, the Army chief of staff and the commanding general as well as heads of pertinent service agencies to effect the decision.

Two thousand troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia have been deployed at the borders to ensure the execution of this decision. This action by the Liberian Government, according to an Executive Mansion release, remains in force until the Government of Sierra Leone makes clear its position in a satisfactory manner to the Liberian Government or identifies the source of an article in the February 19th issue of a Freetown newspaper called THE PROGRESS. That article alleged that the Liberian head of state personally shot and killed his wife after a (?stormy) revelation that she was an accomplice in an abortive attempt to poison CIC [Commander in Chief] Doe and overthrow the PRC government.

The Liberian leader stressed that he has all reasons to believe that the article was particularly designed as an attempt to undermine the great efforts his government has been successfully making toward economic recovery. He further noted that sources in Sierra Leone should think twice before writing such malicious remarks about the Liberian leader when one considers the historical development between the two countries. For example, Dr Doe referred to the vast numbers of our citizens living on Liberian territory taken away from them and given to Sierra Leone, noting that he would rather fight to redeem his land and people rather than killing his wife. He said although Liberia is aware that a vast territory purchased in April 1850 and stretching from (Sherbrook) to (Solomon) still remains in the hands of Sierra Leone, Liberia has remained friendly to the people of that nation. The Liberian leader, however, said that Liberians must not be [words indistinct] anew of this friendship.

Meanwhile, the Liberian ambassador to Sierra Leone has been recalled by government for immediate consultation. The council and the Cabinet viewed with dismay the content and intent of the article and were most surprised that the Government of Sierra Leone has remained silent at its appearance [word indistinct] efforts being made to promote unity and cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the Mano River Union.

And (?becuase) of this decision by government, all those wishing to travel to and from Sierra Leone are to take due note of things.

Government Denounces Newspaper Article

AB221242 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Information Ministry in Monrovia has described the article published in THE PROGRESS newspaper in Sierra Leone as irresponsible journalism calculated to discredit the Liberian leader and disrupt the sisterly relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Information Ministry said that as Liberia and Sierra Leone are fostering economic and social unity through the Mano River Union and ECOWAS, such an article does not speak well of bilateral relations between the two countries.

NIGER

MINISTER SAYS 100,000 RETURN, AID NEEDED

AB182033 Paris AFP in French 1831 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Niamey, 18 Feb (AFP) -- About 100,000 Niger nationals have returned home since the enforcement of the expulsion order by the Nigerian Government against illegal immigrants in that country, Niger Secretary of State for Interior Amadou Fity Maiga announced today.

Fity Maiga stated at a press conference that 87,967 Niger nationals have so far been registered at the various entry points along the 1,000-km Niger-Nigeria border. At the extreme east of the country, about 12,000 Niger nationals also crossed the border between checkpoints.

The Niger secretary of state for interior further stated that 11,017 foreigners returning to their home countries also passed through Niger territory. These include 7,326 Malians, 1,382 Ghanaians, 999 Togolese, 769 Beninese, 534 Upper Voltans, as well as some Senegalese, Guineans, and Mauritanians.

All the expelled immigrants from Nigeria were kept in rehabilitation centers for identification before they are allowed to continue -- foreigners toward the border post nearest to their countries of origin and the nationals toward the headquarters of their departments or administrative districts of origin.

Amadou Fity Maiga also disclosed that the interministerial committee set up to take care of the suddenly expelled Niger immigrants is about to recommend several measures to the government, especially in the field of education and nutrition. As a result, the food needs of the repatriated nationals for the next 10 months were evaluated at 13,500 tons and Niger will therefore have to seek emergency food aid.

In the field of health, a list of basic drugs has been compiled and a first consignment of French aid was presented to the Niger authorities today by French Ambassador Maurice Courage and by Pierre Ricard, the representative of the French aid and cooperation mission. This aid, which is made up of 3,778 kg of pharmaceutical products and 130 blankets, was dispatched to Niamey yesterday aborad a "Transall" aircraft belonging to the French Air Force.

The United Nations development program and the Chinese Red Cross Society have also donated 6.5 million CFA francs each while other countries have also announced their intention to give aid to Niger to enable it receive its expelled nationals, Amadou Fity Maiga disclosed.

NIGERIA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES OIL PRICE CUT, FUTURE PLANS

LD201634 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Press statement issued by the Nigerian office of the special adviser to the president on petroleum and energy]

[Text] [Passage indistinct]. In light of the North Sea's decision, Nigeria has therefore decided to cut the price of its crude oil by $5.50 with effect from 1st February, 1983. Nigeria wishes to make it clear that any future reduction in the prices of comparable competing North Sea crude to levels below Nigeria's new prices will be matched immediately.

In this spirit we would like to reiterate that the restoration of stability and defense of the crude oil market is a responsibility for both OPEC and non-OPEC exporters alike. Events of the last few days highlighted the need to resume a dialogue within OPEC and to begin discussions with non-OPEC exporters on long-term oil price (?and production policy).

Nigeria remains committed to OPEC and continues to believe that the organization represents potentially the most effective force for market stability. Nigeria is therefore continuing to work for a stronger OPEC and a unified OPEC position which [word indistinct] the best interests of Nigeria, OPEC, and the world economy.

OPEC President Comments

AB211128 Lagos NAN in English 1123 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb 21 (NAN) -- The OPEC president and special adviser on petroleum and energy, Malam Yahaya Dikko, said today that Nigeria's decision to cut the price of it's oil was taken in the light of its national interest. Answering questions at the opening of the two-day OPEC workshop for journalists, Malam Yahaya explained that the financial and economic situation in the country formed the basis for the decision. He said that all the 13 member nations of OPEC were informed before the cut was announced, adding that he expected the decision to trigger off positive discussions on long-term oil pricing and production policy.

Also commenting on the issue, the OPEC secretary-general, Dr. Marc Nguema, said that the cut would usher in more active consideration of oil pricing and production. One cannot expect a country to continue to bear full burden of a situation which is unresolved, Dr. Nguema said. OPEC oil ministers in their last meeting in Geneva failed to reach a decision on production quota and pricing. Dr. Nguema said that the workshop was convened to establish close communication with the media in the developing world.

The PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) director-general, Mr. Cheik Diallo, a co-sponsor of the workshop, said that PANA would provide rapid diffusion of information amongst African nations. About 30 journalists from Nigeria and other African nations are attending the workshop.

Nigeria on Saturday reduced the price of its oil by 5.50 dollars with effect from February 1. Nigeria wished to make it clear that any future reduction in the prices of comparable competing North Sea crudes to levels below Nigeria's new prices will be matched immediately, a statement by Malam Yahaya announcing the cut, said.

SHAGARI APPROVES 200 MILLION NAIRA ON LOAN TO STATES

AB161628 Lagos NAN in English 1601 GMT 16 Feb 83

[All figures as received]

[Text] Lagos Feb 16 (NAN) -- President Shagari has approved a 200 naira million loan for assistance to all the states to enable them to meet their financial obligations. A statement from the executive office of the president today in Lagos said that the money would immediately be disbursed to the states by the Central Bank using the existing allocation formula.

The condition for the loan stipulates that each state government should use the money solely for the payment of salaries and wages, particularly teachers salaries. President Shagari advised the states to henceforth pay personal emoluments as a first charge on their statutory allocation.

A breakdown of the loan assistance is as follows:

Anambra	--	11,970,526 naira,
Bauchi	--	9,428,526 naira,
Bendel	--	9,974,526 naira,
Benue	--	9,696,526 naira,
Borno	--	10,573,276 naira,
Cross River	--	11,382,026 naira,
Gongola	--	9,762,776 naira,
Imo	--	11,993,526 naira,
Kaduna	--	12,859,026 naira,
Kano	--	16,011,526 naira,
Kwara	--	7,918,276 naira,
Lagos	--	8,750,526 naira,
Niger	--	6,860,276 naira,
Ogun	--	7,568,276 naira,
Ondo	--	10,208,276 naira,
Oyo	--	14,703,776 naira,
Plateau	--	8,585,026 naira,
Rivers	--	8,082,276 naira,
Sokoto	--	13,671,026 naira.

ANGOLA

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS SECOND MEETING WITH RSA

AB191206 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Official sources have disclosed from the Angolan capital that the government has accepted to hold a second meeting with a delegation of racist South Africa on the Namibian independence issue. The talks will be based on possibilities of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the solution of the Namibian question.

MOZAMBIQUE

31 REPORTED KILLED BY RESISTANCE 'TERRORISTS'

MB201400 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Mozambique National Resistance terrorists killed 31 people in two ambushes in the center of the country this month. Both attacks took place close to the main road and railway line linking Zimbabwe with the sea at Beira. In the first incident on 2d of this month 18 people were killed and 14 others wounded, while in the second incident on the 7th, 13 travelers were killed.

NAMIBIA

JOHANNESBURG: 96 SWAPO 'TERRORISTS' KILLED

LD192010 Johannesburg International Service in Portuguese 1931 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The security forces stationed in South-West Africa, Namibia, have shot dead 96 SWAPO terrorists in the territory's northern operational zone during the last few days. The Territorial Forces have announced in a communique issued in Windhoek that SWAPO forces have infiltrated the territory over a wide area from Kaokoland, western Ovambo, to eastern Ovambo as far as western Kavango.

The information gathered by the security forces shows that a large number of terrorists belonging to a special unit are involved. Some of them are expected to be active in Kaokoland, Ovambo, and western Kavango while others are expected in the farming areas to the south of the Ovambo-Kavango border. The security forces believe that these terrorists' main targets are the Ovambo and Kavango traditional chieftains, farmers, important installations, and any vehicles traveling in the region. The security forces are engaged in pursuit operations.

Besides their usual equipment and Soviet-made weapons, the terrorists use sawed-off shotguns to commit assassinations. The farmers of the region have been briefed in detail and emergency plans have been put into operation. The Territorial Forces say that there are signs that the terrorists are not familiar with local conditions and are not carrying out the instructions received from their leaders. For example, a group supposed to go to western Kaokoland went instead to western Ovambo where it lost 17 members in a clash with the security forces. Another 34 terrorists were killed in another clash in the same area.

The Territorial Forces have also announced that this large operation by the SWAPO terrorists has come at a time when their activity along the Angolan border had been greatly reduced so as to enable negotiations to take place on a cease-fire.

CHILDREN, TEACHERS ABDUCTED, TAKEN TO ANGOLA

MB211932 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Thirty-five school pupils and three teachers were abducted from the (Okwaludi) tribal areas in the west of Ovambo and taken to Angola by terrorists on Friday evening. The acting secretary of the Ovambo administration, Mr (Frans Viljoen), says that the children were all from the (Tsandi) secondary school, about 40 km south of the border between South-West Africa and Angola.

A spokesman for the South-West Africa Territorial Force has confirmed that the abduction is being investigated.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA: DELEGATION LIKELY TO GO TO CAPE VERDE

AB181914 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Cape Town, Feb. 18 (AFP) -- A South African delegation is likely to fly to Cape Verde next week to discuss a possible ceasefire in Namibia with representatives of the Angolan Government, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha said here today.
In a brief statement the minister added that however much the South African Government desired to create a peaceful situation, he had to point out that in the light of "certain recent events" the chances of reaching an agreement were "tenuous", the South African press agency reported.

Mr Botha said that the South African delegation in Cape Verde was to be led by the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, J. van Dalsen. Mr Botha declined any further comment, but it is understood from diplomatic sources in Cape Town that a ceasefire is one of the important items in a package of proposals considered by both governments in Pretoria and Luanda since the first round of talks at Cape Verde last December.

Confirmation of the talks follows rumours circulating in the United States that a ceasefire was imminent. Speculation was increased by the confirmation that Brand Fourie, the South African ambassador in Washington, returned home for consultations with the government at the weekend.

Angola Accord 'Less Likely'

LD182154 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says certain events that came to the notice of the South African Government recently have made the possibility of an agreement with Angola less likely. He was approached for comment after various reports over the past few days that South Africa and Angola were on the verge of signing a peace agreement.

Mr Botha said in Cape Town that a South African delegation, headed by the director general of foreign affairs, would probably leave for Cape Verde within the next week for further discussions with Angolan Government officials over the conditions of a possible cease-fire agreement. The foreign minister siad that no matter how much the South African Government would like to secure a peace agreement he had to point out that in the light of certain recent events that had come to the attention of the South African Government the possibilities of an agreement were now more slight.

85 INJURED IN BLOEMFONTEIN EXPLOSION 18 FEB

AB181138 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Bloemfontein, South Africa, Feb. 18 (AFP) -- Eighty-five people were wounded here in an explosion this morning in the Orange Free State administrative offices for black people, the South African news agency SAPA reported. It said ambulances were rushing to the scene of the blast, whose cause was not immediately known. Five of the wounded were believed seriously hurt, a reliable source here added.

The news agency said the casualties included people who had been queuing at the offices of the administration, which is for black people only. The explosion occurred at about 10:30 a.m. (0830 GMT), SAPA said.

Police Chief Comments

MB181622 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The commissioner of police, General Mike Geldenhuis, says the bomb explosion at the offices of the Southern Free State administration board outside Bloemfontein this morning is proof that allegations that the ANC is selective in its choice of targets are nonsense. The explosion showed clearly that the ANC recklessly attacked innocent people without thought for the consequences.

Gen Geldenhuis said 73 blacks were injured in the explosion and the condition of 18 was serious. Earlier it was reported from Bloemfontein that 50 of the injured had been discharged from the Pelinomi Hostpial after the treatment. Gen Geldenhuis said the blast apparently occurred in one of the toilets in the building complex. It was not yet known what type of explosive had been used, and investigations were continuing. None of the officials of the administration board was injured in the explosion.

ANC Reaction

MB210956 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The African National Congress says South Africa is portraying it as the reckless murderer of black people. South Africa has blamed the ANC for last week's bomb blast in Bloemfontein in which one person was killed and 75 injured. In a statement from Lusaka the ANC says South Africa is giving a false picture of the ANC to camouflage its aggressive intentions. The ANC statement neither denies nor claims responsibility for Friday's blast, which shook the Southern Free State administration board offices.

POLICE REPORT THREE ANC TERRORISTS KILLED

MB211741 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The South African police have killed three ANC terrorists and captured seven in the past few days. This has been announced in the House of Assembly by the minister of law and order, Mr Le Grange, who was taking part in the second reading debate on the part appropriation bill. Mr Le Grange said that large quantities of arms and ammunition had been seized mostly in the Pinetown area near Durban. He said that the South African police had also played a very important role in the deaths of 98 SWAPO terrorists and the capture of seven others in South-West Africa. One white policeman and two special constables had been killed and four wounded.

Mr Le Grange said that the increases in serious crime in South Africa was much lower than anywhere else in the world. Since the establishment of special car theft units in 1980, about 8,000 stolen cars had been recovered and more than 4,000 car thieves had been arrested. He said that the success rate of these units was between 60 and 70 percent, and the possibility of setting up more of these units was being considered.

ZIMBABWE

OPPOSITION LEADER NKOMO ARRESTED, FREED 19 FEB

NC191806 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb 19 (AFP) -- Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo was released this evening after being held for several hours in Bulawayo, southwestern Zimbabwe.

Mr Nkomo told AFP on the telephone that he did not know why he had been detained by police. Mr Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, was stopped by police this morning as he was about to board a plane to begin a trip to Prague where he was to address a meeting of the World Peace Council, according to the official news agency ZIANA.

"I was not given reasons. I will be late for the conference," the opposition leader said. He added that three of his assistants were still being held at the Mzilikaze police camp in a Bulawayo suburb.

A government spokesman said Mr Nkomo had been arrested as it was feared he might stay abroad due to facts coming out in the treason trial of two of his former top military aides -- Dumiso Dabengwa and Lookout Masuku. But a member of ZAPU's Executive Council, Jabavu, Mpofu, said that Mr Nkomo had not so far been indicted during the trial. The government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has held Mr Nkomo responsible for a wave of activity by dissident guerrillas in Matabeleland, southwestern Zimbabwe.

The dissidents, for the most part former guerrillas of Mr Nkomo's wartime ZIPRA Army have carried out several dozen murders in Matabeleland since Mr Nkomo was fired from the Cabinet last February, accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Minister on Detention

NC201855 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb 20 (AFP) -- Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo was detained yesterday because he was attempting to travel out of the country "under a false name," Minister of State for Security Emmerson Munangagwa said today.

But Mr Nkomo immediately denied the minister's charge, which was broadcast on the Zimbabwe television news this evening.

"My ticket is still being held by the police with my passport, and it says 'J. Nkomo'," said Mr Nkomo from his Bulawayo home in southwestern Zimbabwe. "It is a false statement to say that I was travelling under a false name. It is a lie," he said.

Mr Munangagwa also alleged that Mr Nkomo was not going to Prague to address the World Peace Council, as he had said.

"Our investigations actually prove that he was going to South Africa," said Mr Munangagwa, giving the first government statement as to why Mr Nkomo was detained for eight hours yesterday and his passport was taken away from him as he was about to board a plane.

But Mr Nkomo said that his ticket was to Prague and that he was to take a Swiss Air flight from Johannesburg to London in order to take a connection to Prague.

Nkomo Speaks to Journalists

AB211425 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Feb 21 (AFP) -- Speaking to journalists today, Mr Nkomo said he had spent two hours earlier at local headquarters of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO). He said he was told by security police that he was under investigation for three separate possible violations of Zimbabwean law.

The opposition leader charged at a press conference last month that scores of innocent civilians were being killed and ill-treated by the army in the southwestern Matabeletand region by troops of the Fifth Brigade, North Korean-trained and speaking mainly Shona, the language of Mr Mugabe's majority ethnic group.

Mr Nkomo said he had also been told security police were investigating whether he properly informed police he was leaving Zimbabwe -- a procedure apparently considered necessary because he was already under investigation over the press conference.

A third subject of inquiry was the fact that he was carrying 300 Zimbabwe dollars (about the same U.S.) when he tried to fly off on Saturday, he said. Zimbabwean currency law allows travellers to carry up to 20 dollars in notes when leaving the country. Mr Nkomo said he had forgotten about the money in one of his bags.

Despite the attention from police -- CIO men went to his house again today after he spoke to the press--Mr Nkomo said he could not "possibly stand by" without calling public attention to the reports of killings by the army. Some of these reports have been supported by independent observation by correspondents for foreign news organizations who have visited Matabeleland in the last couple of weeks.

Reliable sources in Bulawayo, capital of Matabeleland and Mr Nkomo's political fief, said a delegation of civilians led by a former member of parliament was on its way today to Harare to speak with various government and other officials about the situation in the southwest.

In his talks with reporters, Mr Nkomo also repeated his denial of an allegation by Security Minister Emmerson Munangagwa, who runs the CIO for Mr Mugabe, that he had tried to travel Saturday under a false name.

Aides to Mr Nkomo said three of his travelling companions detained with him on Saturday remained in police custody today.

The security police investigation of Mr Nkomo comes as two of his top military aides, Lookout Masuku and Dumiso Dabengwa, are on trial in Harare for treason. Mr Nkomo's sacking from the Cabinet in February last year and Mr Masuku's and Mr Dabengwa's arrests the following month seemed to trigger the outburst of violence by armed dissidents that has claimed more than 100 lives and led to the army being sent into Matabeleland.